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**MARYMEDE**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
*In the way of Mary*

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12 December 2014

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

This is my last Newsletter as Principal. I would like to thank the Marymede Community for the help and support they have given me as Acting Principal, Delegated Canonical Administrator and Principal over the past five years.

It has been a privilege to have performed this role and I am proud of what has been achieved during that time. The College is well placed to move into the next decade.

I wish my successor Mr Michael Kenny well as he takes up the reins as Marymede's fourth Principal. He has already done a great deal of work in preparation and has been a constant presence in the College this term working with the College Leadership Teams as part of the transition process.

I wish all our families the blessing of Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.

## VCE Results

The VCE results will be published after the production of this Newsletter. A detailed list of our results will be published in the first edition of the Newsletter next year.

In the meantime, I congratulate the class of 2014 for their hard work and success that they will undoubtedly achieve when the results are available next week.

## Staff Farewells

I would like to farewell the following staff who will be leaving Marymede Catholic College at the end of this year:

Mr Dara Blake, Mr Michael Chesser, Mr Justin Griggs, Mr Ronan Kennedy, Ms Katherine Quin and Mr Gavin Van Arkadie, Ms Rosemary Talbot

The following staff have also completed their contracts with Marymede and will be leaving at the end of the year:

Ms Stephanie Bednarz, Ms Amanda Biviano, Mrs Nicole Blowfield, Ms Peta Close, Ms Fiona Glavey, Ms Pauline Morrison and Mr Michael Pahoff.

Mr Conor Fennell will also be taking Leave Without Pay for two years to teach in the Northern Territory.

Laura Gazeas going on Maternity Leave at the end of this year. We wish her well for the birth of her first child.

I would like to thank them for all they have done in their time at Marymede and wish them well in their new appointments.

**Paul D'Astoli**  
**Principal**

## FAITH AND MISSION NEWS

*He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)*



**'Adoration of the Kings' Renaissance artist Jan Gossaert 1510, National Gallery of Victoria.**

This Sunday we mark the Third Sunday of Advent, the waiting and the preparation for the coming of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. I recently read a beautiful definition of His coming as "the bodied presence of God". How beautifully moving to welcome this bodied presence of God as being one like us in every way but sin.

Archbishop Denis Hart says in his Advent letter to us:

***Advent is a time of waiting, a time of hope, a time full of possibility, which will be embodied – incarnated – in Jesus. It is a reminder that God loves us and has promised to be with us. In Jesus Christ, he fulfils his promise. Advent is a reflective time, inviting us to reassess our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. In the busyness of our lives we are called to make space for the Lord, in prayer and in service, particularly to those most in need. This Advent, let us embrace the hope and possibility that come from knowing God loves us and will keep his promise to be with us. We can then be faithful bearers of that hope and love to all we meet.***

In our time of reflecting on how we can be bearers of that love and hope, I offer the following passages from Scripture for each of the days leading up to Christmas. Reflections are by Julie Irwin Zimmerman.

## 14 December Third Sunday of Advent (Is 61:1-2a; 10-11; 1Thess 5:16-24. John 1: 6-8, 19-28)

This week we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, signifying joy. Too often we think joy means getting what we want. But consider the joyful mysteries of the rosary—events filled with surprise and often trepidation. Mary didn't ask to become pregnant before marriage, Elizabeth had despaired of conceiving in her old age, and it took a visit from an angel to convince Joseph that things would be OK. Their joy—and ours too—comes not in getting what we want, but in accepting God's will, even when we don't understand it.

## 15 December Monday (Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27)

**Give more.** This is the season of giving, from presents for our loved ones to coins we throw in the bell-ringer's kettle. But too often, we give from our excess—the change that would have ended up in our pocket, or our Christmas bonus. Remember that Jesus gave, not from his excess, but from his entire being. Then give away something you love.

## 16 December Tuesday (Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32)

**Contemplate joy.** Spend some time today with these thoughts from Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Joy is prayer—Joy is strength—Joy is love—Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls." And, "Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen."

## 17 December (Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17)

**Learn your history.** The litany of names in Jesus' ancestry often falls on deaf ears. So many strange names—how can we make sense of them all! But examined closely, they are a fascinating tapestry of powerful kings, complicated courtships and other elements of great drama. Ask a relative about your family's own dramatic stories today.

## 18 December (Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24)

**Stand up for your convictions.** Following Jesus sometimes means ignoring what other people say. No one knew this better than Joseph. Imagine what people said when they learned Mary was pregnant. It might have been easier to go along with his plan to abandon her quietly, but he trusted God and ignored everyone else.

## 19 December (Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25)

**Forgive your doubts.** Isn't it refreshing to hear Zechariah doubt God? An angel arrives with news of a longed-for son, and he answers, in essence, "Prove it." In dark moments we all have doubted whether God's promises are real. The good news for Zechariah, and for us, is that they are real, and God keeps them even if we doubt.

## 20 December (Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38)

**Say yes.** In our over-committed, over-scheduled world, the last thing many of us want to do is accept another responsibility. Yet couldn't Mary have made the same case? "I'd love to help, God, but this will disrupt my wedding plans, and I don't really

have time right now." Is there anything God is asking you to do that you should accept?

## 21 December Fourth Sunday of Advent (2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, Rom 16:25-2 Luke 1:26-38)

**Nothing is impossible with God.** Through our Baptism and Confirmation we too have been overshadowed by the Spirit and now we look for ways to let the Spirit be active through our lives as we serve the Lord. When we come up against obstacles and discouragement in our mission we will hear an echo of today's gospel, "For nothing is impossible for God." Do I trust that God will help me do what feels impossible on my own?

## 22 December (1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56)

**Be humble.** Our society does not place great value on humility. We fear being overlooked if we don't assert our own worth. In contrast, Mary sees herself as a "lowly servant" and speaks of the mercy in store for the downtrodden. Let the Magnificat be your guide as you find ways to practice humility.

## 23 December (Mal 3:1-4, 4:23-24; Lk 1:57-66)

**Accept God's plan.** The birth of John the Baptist marks the end of his parents' long and difficult wait for a child, but also the beginning of a life filled with great joy and great sorrow. As our wait ends, we too often find other stories unfolding. Accept the twists and turns as part of God's plan.

## 24 December (2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-11, 16; Lk 1:67-79)

**Find your role.** Zechariah, struck dumb when he doubted, finally finds his voice. What joyful words tumble forth when he understands and accepts his family's role in the Redemption! What role does God want you to take in preparing for Jesus' return, and what joy can you find in that role?

## Christmas (Is 62:11-12; Lk 2:15-20)

**Hope joyfully.** The wait of Advent is over, but the wait for the return of Jesus goes on. As we begin our celebration of Christ's birth, continue to nurture a sense of joyful hope as a Christian anticipating the Second Coming. An active prayer life, regular participation in the sacraments and service to others will help ease the wait. So will our knowledge that the season of Christmas, with its quiet miracle of God become flesh, will one day give way to a Christmas that will last for all eternity.

I wish all our students, families, staff and the extended Marymede Community the peace, and love of the Christ Child at Christmas and a joy-filled start to 2015.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus.

Image of Nativity taken from:

<http://revbickers.blogspot.com.au/2010/12/nativity.html>

## Staff As Learner Leaders

A number of Marymede Catholic College staff have been sponsored by the Catholic Education Office to undertake studies in various areas: Accreditation to Teach RE, Student Wellbeing, Leadership, Learning-Teaching. These staff have brought insights from their learning to enrich classroom learning and curriculum design.

Furthermore, they have been pleased to receive high grades for their assessment tasks especially since they have had to juggle full time teaching and afterhours preparation with the rigours of post-graduate study at weekends or afterhours on weekdays.

Michael Pahoff, Year 5 Teacher who completed a year of studies towards Accreditation to Teach RE in a Catholic School shares excerpts from his essay.

### Examining some of the most important changes in the Catholic Church in the last 50 years.

In *Iota Unum*, Romano Amerio a Roman Catholic theologian and a twentieth century conservative critic writes that in the last 50 years, the Catholic Church has been challenged to adapt to international political and social change, social mobility and technological change, Vatican II, the crisis of the priesthood, changing views on sexuality, abortion, gender, marriage and divorce, death and suicide, secular and religious education, war and social justice, virtues of faith, hope and charity and theological scepticism.

### Social Justice

One of the more important changes within the Catholic Church has been the growth over the last 50 years of Caritas. Caritas Australia was created in 1964 to provide international aid and development. It has 1500 members, partners and supporters dedicated to achieving 5 strategic goals, being: to deepen its Catholic identity; build stronger relationships; strengthen programs and advocacy; develop organisational agility and competence and fund sustainable growth. Caritas Australia tackles issues of social injustice and poverty such as health, education, food security and agriculture, indigenous rights, water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction and emergency relief, climate justice, disability, HIV and AIDS, peace-building and women's rights.

### Women

Another important change in the structure of the Catholic Church as a result of Vatican II is the higher role that women now play within the greater structure, while still not being able to be ordained as priests. An example of this would be the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Prior to 1963 the Society had been a gender-split group. Throughout the world, the women of the society operated separately under the banner of the 'Women's Society of St Vincent de Paul' with its centre located in Bologna, Italy. After a trial period, the two gender-split sections were formally amalgamated in 1967 and both men and women have equal responsibility. This is an example of how the role of women within the Catholic Church has changed.

### Changing Demographics

The final and probably most significant area of change with the Catholic Church relates to its changing demographics and the influence these have exerted in the last decades. In 1910 there were 260 million Catholics in the world of which 65% were in Europe and 24% in Latin America. In 2010 there are just over 1 billion Catholics of which 39% were Latin American and 24% from Europe. Significantly large growth in the demographic proportions of the Catholic population can be seen in

Sub-Saharan Africa up from less than 1% to 16%; Asia-Pacific up from 5% to 12% and North America up from 5% to 8%. The political influence of these changes are already evident. The current Pope Francis, elected in 2013 is the first Pope to be born outside of Europe since St Gregory III born in Syria, was elected in 731 CE. Pope Francis is also the first Pope originating from Latin America.

### Summary

In *My Hope for the Church*, Bernard Haring writes that there are further challenges for the Catholic Church, including priestly celibacy, the pastoral care of divorced and remarried Catholics, the selection of bishops and the functions of the Papacy. Haring also points out that there is the threat of reactionary tendencies to restore a pre-Vatican II moral theology.

Whatever provides the spark, the influence of these important changes has been widespread and has already seen changes in the politics within the Catholic Church and may result in a further changing of social and political views, which may in turn, with the assistance of Pope Francis lead to Vatican III.

**Judeline Wadhvani**

**Head of Faith & Mission (P-12)**

### Advent Liturgy

#### "Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord" Isaiah 40:3

The Advent Liturgy for the Year 7, 8 and 9 students on their last day was the product of weeks of rehearsing and hard work. A wide range of students across Years 7, 8 and 9 worked together to produce a Liturgy that incorporated a re-enactment of the Nativity story narrated through the eyes of modern day students, interspersed with carols and followed by a series of moving prayers about the Gift of Hope that came to us the first Christmas. The dedication and effort of all the students involved was evident and provided a beautiful liturgy that helped all to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Well done to all the students involved and to Ms Angie Bedford, Head of Drama for her support.



**Simone McGill**

**Youth Ministry Coordinator**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SECONDARY

### Secondary School Return 2015

Year 7, 11 and 12 Friday January 30, 8:30 a.m.

Year 8, 9 and 10 Monday February 2, 8:30 a.m.

All students will be expected to return in full Summer Uniform including Blazer.

We wish you and your families a holy and blessed Christmas and a restful holiday period

**Robyn Roberts**  
**Deputy Principal - Secondary**

## HEAD OF SECONDARY

### Congratulations

God's blessings are bountiful at Marymede. Many thanks to all the families who attended the Secondary Award evening to witness our young people receive well-deserved recognition – it is a precious and sincere opportunity.

Student Leadership:- Our 2015 Senior Leadership Council came together for an induction day on December 1 and most of our 2015 student leaders attended to support our incoming Year 7's on December 9. We have a fine calibre of student leaders, growing and developing the culture of Marymede. For the induction day, we had a number of guests pose challenges of leadership: Mr Kenny framed the concept of servant leadership, Mary-Ann from Caritas posed 'Just Leadership not just leadership', Uncle Bill Nicholson – Wurundjeri Elder talked about 'Life, Land and Law', and Chris Varney – Director of the I CAN network asked 'what is your leadership signature?'. It was a fruitful day, with Miss Simone McGill, Ms Wadhvani and myself facilitating and allowing time for our Senior Leaders to grasp their roles.



### I Can Pilot Success

On Tuesday December 2, we celebrated the efforts of a number of students and mentors with the I CAN program. The young people of Marymede on the autism spectrum have much to celebrate and be proud of. We are continuing to work on developing self-confidence and awareness of the importance of each individual in our school. Promoting an 'I CAN' attitude through encouragement, self-awareness and challenge has done many students and staff good. Throughout Term 3 and 4 we have had young adults with Asperger's/Autism mentor younger students and provide opportunities for all to flourish. For 2015 the College aims to expand the I CAN attitude and

language throughout the Primary and Secondary Schools. Thankyou to Chris Varney and the I CAN team for allowing us to be a part of such a significant partnership.

### End of 2014 – a Reflection

"Begin with the end in mind." A notable phrase which can guide individual and team pursuits. For 2014 we had goals of increasing student leadership responsibility, increasing the knowledge our teachers have of students, increasing accountability for student learning and achievement and ongoing improvement of positive behaviours and restorative practices. I am proud to say we have progressed in all of these areas. Progress comes with tough conversations at times, providing a myriad of opportunities for students to excel and accountability for learning behaviours. We move into 2015 strengthened in our approaches to student management and communication, and still with work to do. One of the biggest challenges we face is having our young people rise above average – they are ready and capable of it – and not giving in to excuses they may have for not doing so! We are prepared to face the challenges of 2015, be clear in our expectations and communication and not settle for mediocrity. We walk together for the benefit of our young people. God Bless you all over the Christmas Season.

**Julia Wake**  
**Head of Secondary School.**

## HEAD OF SECONDARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In the last two editions of the College Newsletter I presented a summary of some of the authentic approaches to curriculum and pedagogy that have evolved this year across the year 7-10 Religious Education programs.

In this edition, it gives me great pleasure to present to you a summary of the same for our VCE students in their Religious Education studies and experiences.

### Year 11 Texts and Traditions 2014

This year students have undertaken an in depth analysis of the Holy Bible as they explored its origins. A key challenge for students has been to identify and explain the formation of the Bible exploring when, where, why and how the Bible developed according to the Canon of Scripture. Students also explored the concept of Biblical Inspiration which enabled them to gain a deeper understanding for how this influences the sacredness and importance of the Bible for Catholics today. Students reflected on key examples of daily practices and traditions within Catholicism which highlight this. This year our students have also undertaken an in depth analysis of Judaism. A key objective for students was to explore key examples of Jewish traditions which demonstrate the importance that Jews place on the Torah. Students concluded their studies this year exploring similarities and differences in the ways in which the Bible and the Torah view the social theme of Ecology and caring for the environment. Students explored the work of Catholic Earth care Australia and in particular, how the organisation began and why. Students were able to identify how their mission is influenced by sacred texts from the Bible.

This year upon completion of their Texts and Traditions studies, students were given an opportunity to provide the team of Year 11 teachers with vital feedback which will help us to continue to drive improvement and refinement of our learning and teaching for 2015. I am pleased to share this collective summary of data with you.

Below is a copy of the Unit Evaluation Form which students completed so you may better understand the graphed data results.

## Year 12 Religion and Society 2014

Year 12 students commenced their studies in Ethics and Morality with a look at the Bioethical issue of Abortion and the effects of the use of the abortion drug RU486. Students explored and deepened their understanding of what it means to respect life. All students were surprised by the fact that at some stage in their lives, just over half of all women experience an unplanned pregnancy. Students appreciated reading about and listening to the stories of men and women for whom the reality of motherhood and fatherhood becomes a source of unexpected joy, whilst sadly for others, continuing the pregnancy becomes difficult. Students inquired about the Catholic perspective on abortion and completed their study of this issue knowing that Pope Francis speaks of love and mercy to give people the context for the Church's teaching on abortion.

In the words of the Holy Father *"We oppose abortion, not because we are mean or old fashioned, but because we love people and that is what we must show the world."*

The next ethical issue that students experienced was that of Human Trafficking and the following summary has been provided by the following Year 12 teachers Ms Wadhvani & Ms Vlahusic:

## Sharing Expertise For Professional Excellence A Justice Action Response From The Year 12 Religious Education Classroom

We presented the following case study involving a group of Year 12 and Year 11 RE students at the Secondary School Staff Meeting on October 13th.

A pilot assessment project on the study of the Human Trafficking unit in Year 12 Ethics and Morality was planned and implemented in Term 3. The assessment was designed to incorporate the skills of 21st century deep learning (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Citizenship, Computer literacy, Connectedness) through digital presentations of a researched area in Human Trafficking to RE classes at Years 10 and 11.

In addition, the presenting students had to design an evaluation form, obtain feedback and write a critical self-reflection report from this feedback. The audience response to the evaluation survey was positive in terms of having gained a good understanding of an issue about which they had no knowledge.

In terms of developing justice awareness, a more successful outcome was the launch of MCATH (Marymede Catholic College Against Trafficking in Humans) group by the Year 12 students, as their legacy to the student body to continue the

justice response that flowed directly from their learning. Posters for display in all classrooms and public areas were designed by them. An informative brochure entitled *Marymede says No to Human Trafficking* has been designed for a strategic 1000 letter-box drop in the neighbourhood of the College.

Marisa Bellina (College Captain 2015) and Michael Nativo (College Community Leader 2015) offered feedback on how the knowledge gained had opened their eyes about an issue of human dignity and justice about which they did not know anything and that many students are keen to join and support MCATH in 2015.

We thank the pioneer group of 2014 Year 12's: Jaya Sharma, Katherine Grigoropoulos, Annie Sprague, Kiana Rigney, Nicholas Musto, Bianca Agosta and Navjit Sidhu for their initiative in moving the student body from "Charity to Justice Awareness" and for their dedication in launching MCATH. Their legacy will long be cherished.

<http://vimeo.com/114207877>

Our Year 12's concluded their studies with a look at a second Bioethical issue, Euthanasia. Students explored and deepened their understanding of what it means *"To Love To The End - Planning a Good Death."* For some students talking about death was difficult and at times a little confronting. However, after an in depth analysis, students walk away from their study of this controversial life issue much better informed as critical thinkers because they have had the opportunity to form their own opinions for or against euthanasia.

This year upon completion of their Religion and Society studies, students were given an opportunity to provide the team of Year 12 teachers with vital feedback which will help us to continue to drive improvement and refinement of our learning and teaching program for 2015. I am pleased to share this collective summary of data with you.

Attached is a copy of the Unit Evaluation Form which students completed so you may better understand the graphed data results.

In this final edition of the College Newsletter for 2014, I would like to sincerely thank all members of the Religious Education team - Ms Niall, Ms McGill, Ms Wadhvani, Ms Bluett, Ms Willis, Mr Chesser, Mr Fennell, Mr Komiazkyk, Ms Kane and Ms Wake for providing our students with such rich and rigorous learning opportunities as well as faith and spiritual development opportunities in Religious Education this year.

I wish all our families a Blessed Christmas and New Year with your loved ones,

**Riccardo luele**  
**Head of Secondary Religion**

## SECONDARY LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

### Performing Arts

#### Year 7 Drama End of Year Program

On Tuesday December 2, Miss Bedford and Miss Kiely joined forces to take an excited group of Year 7s through 'Ultimate Improv Showdown' where during the two hour session teams

put their term four improvisation training into practice. We were delighted to see a variety of interesting performance work, including clever use of prop transformation and creativity and spontaneity in 'Death in a Minute'.

### Advent Liturgy

A group of talented drama students from Years 7 to 9 were selected to work with Miss McGill and Miss Bedford to add a performance element to the retelling of the Nativity Story at last week's Advent Liturgy. It was a pleasure to workshop the performance with such a dedicated group of students, and their performance was well received by their peers. I'd like to mention Aaron Trifonidis (Year 9) who took on the role of Director. His ability to lead and his keen eye for detail were crucial in the development process. Well done.

**Angie Bedford**

**Head of Performing Arts**

### Year 9 Model United Nations

On Monday December 2, Tuesday December 3 and Wednesday December 4 the entire Year 9 cohort were involved in Marymede Catholic College's very first Model United Nations. The students were immersed in this international relations simulation whereby they were required to negotiate the world's response to a possible Zombie Apocalypse. After being broken up into 15 different groups, each was assigned a specific country to research such as United Kingdom, Russia and Togo. By ascertaining their country's position on the issue, the students then needed to propose resolutions on how the world would combat the outbreak of zombies. This proved to be quite the difficult task with many students showing great skills in negotiation, both with other countries and within their own country. All in all, this simulation allowed the students to witness the complications that come with negotiations on the world stage. We are hoping that this will open the doors for a Model United Nations Club in 2015 for interested students.



**Mark Russell**

**Head of Humanities**

### Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar 2015

Congratulations to Andrian Pieri Year 10 on his selection as a Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar at the University of Melbourne for 2015.

This programme offers

- A taste of university life
- The chance to meet and connect with other students like you
- The opportunity to develop your leadership and community involvement skills
- Access to University resources, academics and events at our Parkville campus.

### Professor Kwong Lee Dow

In 2007, the University of Melbourne welcomed 700 of Victoria's most talented secondary students as the inaugural Kwong Lee Dow (KLD) Young Scholars. Just seven years later, the number of Young Scholars who have participated in the program has reached more than 5700.

KLD now attracts 500 participating schools, who nominate their best students for the program. "They've been chosen not only because there is a feeling that they will succeed and will do well in the University, but that they have qualities of leadership, engagement and involvement," says Professor Kwong Lee Dow.

Both the inspiration and namesake behind the program, Professor Kwong Lee Dow is a former University Vice-Chancellor, a distinguished education scholar and active contributor to curriculum reforms. He has held various Victorian government positions, including chair of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. He was appointed Member of the Order of Australia in 1984 and in 2012, was made an Officer of the Order. He has received various awards and recognition for his achievements and leadership.

**Maira Christie**

**Head of English**

### LANGUAGE NEWS

As the 2014 School year draws to an end it is important to reflect on the year that was in our Language curriculum. The following activities highlight what makes our Language curriculum "stand out" and how our students have had great opportunities to extend, consolidate and learn in their language classes:

- Lunch with Guy Grossi at Ombra:- who talked about the Mediterranean diet in Italian to our senior Italian students
- First Japanese Study Tour for Year 10's - 11 Japanese students.
- Italian exchange ( hosting) with students from Mirandola in Emilia Romagna Italy
- Veneto Club excursion Year 7 Italian students
- City Experience Language component for year 9 Italian and Japanese students
- Japanese drum, origami, sushi making and summo incursion- Year 8 Japanese Students.
- Una Gita al Mercato - Queen Vic Market excursion for year 8 Italian students
- Swinburne Poetry Competition Year 7 and 8 Italian students- winning state placements
- Dante Alighieri Poetry and Essay Competition - Year 9-12 Italian students- winning state placements
- Daylesford immersion day Year 10 Italian students
- Language Perfect International Competition winning state placements Year 7-12 Italian, Japanese and Indonesian students.

- Extended Exchange to Italy One Year 10 student is taking part.
- Jake Kite and Jason Emmanuele ( students from the class of 2011) addressing Year 9-12 Italian and Japanese students on the benefits of studying languages at high school and beyond in tertiary education.

And the many activities in class.

Last Friday Adrian Chiodo in Year 10 left for a 2 month “extended stay” in Mirandola Italy at Liceo Pico as part of his Italian studies at the College. Adrian will be hosted by Francesco Botti and Alessia Listo, both Italian students who were involved in the Italian exchange to Marymede in September. Adrian’s objectives are to attend Italian school over his summer break is to improve his oral and written skills in preparation for VCE Italian. The Chiodo family have been strong supporters of the Italian exchange program and Italian studies at the College having hosted 2 students from Italy. We wish Adrian all the best for his time in Italy and look forward to his return. In bocca a lupo Adriano.

Last week students in Years 7-8 Italian and Japanese were involved in various activities as part of their end of year program. The activities were designed around cultural and linguistic units of work presented in classes. The Year 7 Italian students visited the Veneto club and participated in a pasta making demonstration learning how to make tortellini and ravioli, they learned how to play bocce and played a game with the winners winning a trophy, they played soccer and then had a lovely pasta and pizza lunch. The Year 8 Italian students ventured to the Queen Victoria Market after studying a unit of work on (“Il Cibo”) food. They focused on the cultural importance of markets, fresh food and seasonal produce for Italians and also learned about the history and different food areas of the Victoria Market in Italian. Year 8 Japanese Students had a great day at the College involved in an incursion where they focused on Japanese culture- watching a Japanese drum demonstration, watching Anime Films, making sushi and being involved in a Sumo suit completion. Photographs of these activities are attached.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and students a Buon Natale E Felice Anno Nuovo and to thank our Language staff- Prof luele, Prof Esposito, Sensai Lemar, Sensai Klar and Ms.McGill for all their hard work and dedication to the Marymede Language Faculty.

Ci vediamo in 2015 ( see you in 2015).



**Maria Daniele**  
**Head of Languages Secondary School**

## Secondary Sport

Keely Henderson Year 11 and James Henderson Year 10 receiving their award for Marymede Catholic College SACCSS Sportsman of the Year at the recently held SACCSS Sports Awards. Congratulations to them both.



## Marymede Students Going Places

Tanisha De Silva of Year 8 recently Represented Australia in the Commonwealth Taekwondo Championships in Edinburgh, Scotland. We wish you all the best for your future endeavours.



## Guild Sport

In Term 4 students from Year 7 and 9 had the opportunity to participate in a range of Sport Competitions against other Guilds. Well done to all students who were involved and congratulations to all the winning Guilds.



*Year 9 McAuley boys winning the T-Ball Competition.*



Year 9 McCormack girls winning the Soccer Competition.



Year 7 Marcellin boys winning the T-Ball Competition .



Year 7 Romero girls winning the Cricket Competition.

**Jordan Sorani**  
**AFL Trainee**

## Marymede Writing Prize Winners 2014

Marymede is delighted to announce the following winners and congratulate them on their excellent submissions to the 2014 competition.

### Overall Winner

Marymede Writing Prize 2014 Winner  
**Calin Sinclair** for 'Mists of Poland'

### Individual Section Winners

Short Story Senior Winner  
**Jaya Sharma** for 'The Path of Salvation'

Short Story Junior Winner  
**Adrian Garro** for 'Kiptoo'

Senior 50-word Short Story Winner  
**Chantelle Mpfu** for 'Reciprocate'

Junior 50-word Short Story Winner  
**Breanna Dimitrievski** for 'Unsure'

Senior scriptwriting Winner  
**Ysabel Dungca** for 'Ludwig's Lament'

Senior Feature article Winner  
**Nakita Costanzo** for 'The Role and Importance of the High Court of Australia'

Junior Feature article Winner  
**Ajay Jay** for 'Ebola: the Next Pandemic'

## Excerpts of prize-winning writing from 2014 Marymede Writing Prize

### Calin Sinclair, Year 12: Marymede Writing Prize Winner

I bounce up and down on my seat as the truck hits another pothole in the road, cracked and pitted by mortar shells and gunfire. It's never a pleasant ride in.

The captain sits opposite me in the back of the truck, resplendent in his shiny black leather, polished to a sheen and proudly bearing a red swastika armband on his right bicep. The red, like fresh blood, seems out of place in the grey mists of morning, a slash of colour in a world of monochrome.

The truck swerves around a burnt-out car and hits another hole, nearly sending me sprawling into the captain. I shudder at the consequences were it to happen.

At least we drew clean-up duty this time, not like Warsaw frontline duty, lost my only friend on this stupid squad full of Hitler Youth lapdogs, and that woman... Jaeger had just been shot and I thought she had a gun! I couldn't see what she was holding. I couldn't... I couldn't.

### Jaya Sharma, Year 12: Senior Short Story

As he approached his house, an odd sense of unease swept over him. Entering his house, he expected Kora to be there. After a few moments of desperate searching, it became apparent she was gone. A note was left. *Arrive alone at the eastern port. She will be killed at dawn. Regards, the Burned Man.* No! The Burned Man. The fire was a decoy. A strange, long lost fire sparked in his heart. This was unforgivable. Hatred was dominating his thoughts, tearing at his insides. He scrambled furiously for his sword and ran into the night, pleading for the moon to remain a little while longer.

### Adrian Garro, Year 7: Junior Short Story

One night, after all was quiet, there was a loud scream. All the villagers were running everywhere; I was told that Kiptoo had returned. Kiptoo had been missing from the village for a few years and everyone thought that he had died. Instead, he was stealing food during the night, while people were sleeping.

On return to my village I found that Kiptoo had struck again. As I arrived the sight that greeted me was sickening. I tried to do what I could but it was too late. Bashira had lost her battle. I went to comfort her parents. I eventually made my way outside as I needed to think; as I sat on a rock behind the village hut I began to sense I was not alone. I looked up and there was Kiptoo.

### Chantelle Mpfu, Year 12: Senior 50-word Short Story

Long time, no see (I miss him)  
Yeah, well, been busy with work (I should've called her)  
Oh, how's that coming along? (His work was more important

than me)  
It's great actually (I hate it)  
Sorry, I have to run (I still love him)  
Okay, bye (I still love her)

### **Breanna Dimitrievski, Year 9: Junior 50-word Short Story**

That was the worst part, listening to the thump of your heartbeat and not knowing what day it would stop. But worse than that, not knowing what time, would it be before someone visited? While they visited? What if they never got to say goodbye? Would it be when you—

### **Ysabel Dungca, Year 10: Script Writing**

*Ludwig:* As I said, my parents never cared about me and they left me to do what I wanted. And with all the spare time I had, with no-one to talk to since I hated everyone, I became dependent on music, specifically jazz. I remember that day when my parents finally got me my first vinyl player after months of pleading and begging. I fell straight in love with this strange style of music. I recall rushing home every day from school and playing my favourite vinyl (since it was the only vinyl I had, mind you) that had Klaus Doldinger's music in it. Have you heard of him? He's brilliant. Go check out his music. No, better yet (*turns to the band*), can you play a song of his?

### **Nakita Costanzo, Year 11: Senior Feature Article**

The High Court of Australia is the highest judicial court in the Australian legal system. Located in the nation's capital, Canberra, the High Court was established under Section 71 of the Commonwealth Constitution with the wording: "The judicial power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a Federal Supreme Court, to be called the High Court of Australia."... Each courtroom deals with different areas of the High Court's jurisdiction and each independently serve great importance to the running of the nation and ultimately the upholding of the Australian Constitution.

### **Ajay Jay, Year 8: Junior Feature Article**

For now, the Ebola virus continues to ravage and terminate every living organism that obstructs its path. Just like humans originated in Africa (Darwin's evolution theory), their potential destroyer also began its life in Africa. A pandemic seems inevitable as we humans are battling against one of the world's deadliest forces, pestilence.

### **Laura Wilcox and Moira Christie Marymede Writers' Festival Co-ordinators**

### **Victorian 'Spirit Of ANZAC' State Finalist 2014-2015 - ADRIAN PIERI**

Once again Marymede Catholic College has a State Finalist in the Victorian 'Spirit of ANZAC' Prize. Congratulations to Adrian Pieri, Year 10, who has been invited for an interview on Friday 12 December to determine whether he can secure a coveted place on the 2015 two week study tour as part of the Victorian 'Spirit of ANZAC' Prize 2014-2015 to visit locations where Australians have served.

Adrian entered the competition with an art entry which combined his skill as an artist with his English and History skills to produce an interesting illustrated ANZAC Alphabet entitled 'Then and Now'. He had to provide a 500 word statement

that demonstrated how his entry addressed the relevance of the Spirit of ANZAC to the youth of today. His poignant line drawing depicts the August Offensive of 1915 featured in Peter Weir's film 'Gallipoli' and images of young people celebrating at ANZAC Cove and the ANZAC Day March.

We wish Adrian all the best for this exciting opportunity.



### **Laura Wilcox and Moira Christie Enrichment Team**

## **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL PRIMARY**

### **2015 Primary Student Leaders**

We are pleased to announce that the following students have been appointed to formal positions of leadership in the Primary School for 2015:

#### **2015 Primary Student Leaders**

Nandana Nair and Jarrod Taylor

#### **2015 Primary Guild Leaders**

Chanel:

Christy Dimovski and Christopher Markovski

Chisholm:

Alanah Farrugia-Snell and Nuwin Fernando

Marcellin:

Jarni Brancaleone and Mitchell Antonello

McAuley:

Brittany Zahra and Samuel Vermeulen

McCormack:

Chiderra Obani and Carly Pizzato

Romero:

Charlotte Large and Jake Mitkovski

### **2014 College Year Books**

The Marymede Catholic College 2014 Year Book will not be distributed to primary students and families in December, due to errors in the publication. The publishing company has been informed and the College is working with them to rectify the errors. 2014 Year Books will be distributed to the primary students and families, including the students who are currently in Year 6, at the commencement of the 2015 school year. Please accept our sincere apology for any inconvenience this may cause.

### **2015 Pastoral Groups and Pastoral Teachers for all Primary School Students**

Parents of all 2015 Primary students, including Prep students, will receive a letter indicating the Class group, Pastoral Teacher and Homeroom location for your child in 2015. This letter will

also contain 2015 pre-testing and Parent-Teacher On-line (PTO) information. All letters will be posted on Thursday 18 December, 2014. Please be aware that for privacy and safety reasons, the College does not, under any circumstances, give out class lists of students to any parent or member of the public.

## 2015 Years One to Year Six Starting Dates

Friday January 30 and Monday February 2 are pre-testing days for the Year One to Six students. Families are asked to book an appointment on only one of these days for their child. Information regarding the pre-testing and booking an appointment on line, will be detailed in the aforementioned letter you will receive shortly after Thursday 18 December. Classes for all Years One to Year Six students will commence on Tuesday 3 February, 2015 from 8.45am – 3.15pm.

## 2015 Prep Meet the Teacher Days

Friday January 30 and Monday February 2 are Prep Meet the Teacher Days. Each family is asked to book a 30 minute appointment, on only one of these days, to meet the Pastoral Teacher of their child. Information regarding the Parent Teacher Online system for booking appointments will be posted to all Prep families on Thursday 18 December.

## 2015 Prep Starting Dates and Times

Tuesday February 3 9.00am - 1.00pm Preps A-K only  
Wednesday February 4 9.00am - 1.00pm Preps L-Z only  
Thursday February 5 9.00am - 1.00pm All Prep students  
Friday February 6 9.00am - 1.00pm All Prep students

From Monday February 9, all Prep students attend school from 8.45am - 3.15pm on every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays February 11, 18 and 25 (except by appointment for Literacy and Numeracy Assessments). From Monday March 2 all Prep students attend school from 8.45am-3.15pm every week day.

## Semester Two 2014 Student Reports

As previously advised, paper copies of the Semester Two, 2014 Reports for primary students will not be posted this semester. Instead an online copy of each students report will be available to their parents via the Parent Access Module (PAM) from midday on Monday 15 December 2014. In October all College parents were sent information on how to access PAM and details of their own username and password. If you have any queries about using the Parent Access Module or you need to obtain a copy of your username and password, please contact the Primary School Office

## Messages of Appreciation

2014 has been a challenging and rewarding year in the primary school and we have many reasons to be grateful. We continue to embrace the unique Prep to Year 12 nature of our College, extending the opportunities for students, staff and parents to learn, work and celebrate as one.

On behalf of the primary teachers and students, I would like to thank all our parent helpers and volunteers for assisting in classrooms, on excursions, at sporting events, changing the take-home reading books, assisting in the Resource Centre

and the Canteen, supporting and working on the Parents and Friends and College Board, along with the myriad of other ways you have supported the staff and students throughout the year. Your time and the dedication is very much appreciated.

My sincere thanks to the teams of teachers, leaders and support staff for their tireless work and cheerful disposition, each have greatly contributed to the learning and wellbeing of the primary students. I acknowledge the work of the 2014 Primary Year Level Coordinators: Christie Ramaekers, Laetitia Malusu, Linda Preziuso, Jacqueline Tjorpatzis, Aisling Gormley, Laura Gazeas and Anna Damigella and the 2014 primary leaders; Alison Besselaar, Nicole Pegler, Kaylene Wright, Maree Mullen and Gerard Large. Their work has been exceptional and deserving of our thanks.

Our deepest gratitude to Fr Maurie Cooney for his many years of dedicated service to the College and his unwavering support of our religious education and sacramental programs. His ability to engage with students, staff and families will be greatly missed. We thank God for the wisdom he has brought to Marymede during its formation years.

I take the opportunity to thank and farewell our retiring Principal, Paul D'Astoli. Under his leadership the growth and improvement of Marymede Catholic College has been profound. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Paul for his determination and steadfast commitment to the College and we wish him the best of health and happiness in his retirement.

Farewell to the students, families and staff who are leaving the College this year. We wish you all the very best in your new endeavours. Thank you to all students and families for your continued commitment to the College. I hope you all enjoy a very happy Christmas with family and friends and a relaxing, fun holiday.



**Liz Crane**  
**Deputy Principal Primary**

## HEAD OF PRIMARY

## Concluding 2014 Academic Year

In the concluding weeks to the 2014 academic year we have had many exciting events to participate in and great achievements to celebrate. I am sure that you would all agree that the excitement has been electric. Carols by Candlelight and Awards/Presentation evenings have been attended and enjoyed as a strong Marymede community. The expressions on the faces of students as they performed, presented tokens of thanks and received awards are testament to the pride that they have as a student at Marymede Catholic. Thank you to all who have contributed to the wonderful successes of these events.

Throughout the year the Parents and Friends association have supported a range of events that have created great fun for the students and parents as well as providing some fantastic

physical resources. Thank you for bringing such dedication, energy and enthusiasm to our college.

Many wonderful parents have assisted in a variety of ways in the college throughout the year. The contributions that they have made have been greatly appreciated and I hope that they are able to continue with this assistance in 2015. Thank you very much for your time and efforts.

Staff have had exciting times working with your children and guiding them along their learning journeys this year. I am sure that you appreciate the dedication and care that they have taken nurturing your children. Thank you to all staff for continuing to make Marymede Catholic College such a wonderful place for students to learn and grow.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Marymede Catholic College community a joyous and peaceful Christmas season. As we prepare for 2015 I wish to extend to you my best wishes for a year of great achievements. We will all look forward to another exciting year at Marymede Catholic College.

## National Days

### December 1 Romania

Romania's National Day marks the country's unification in 1918 and the formation of the Romanian state within its present-day boundaries. Romania's full independence had been recognized in 1878 but it was not until December 1, 1918 in the city of Alba Iulia, when Romania was united with Transylvania, Crisana, Banat and the Maramures area. National Day has been celebrated in Romania since 1990, after the fall of the Romanian Communist Party.



### December 2 United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates celebrates its 43rd National Day on December 2, 2014. The holiday marks the unification of the seven emirates and the founding of the country in 1971 under Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president.



### December 5 Thailand

At the start of the 1930s, Thailand (then called Siam) was suffering economically from the effects of the great depression. The king at the time, Rama VII was seen by many to not have enough experience to deal with all the issues that were affecting his country. This led to a group of intellectuals and senior military personnel forming a group called the people's party who presented the king with the option to stay in power but have his power reduced, creating a constitutional monarchy. Under the new constitution, the king and monarchy remained in place with the king as head of state, head of the military and defender of all religions.



### December 12 Kenya

**Jamhuri Day** is a national holiday in Kenya, celebrated on 12 December each year. *Jamhuri* is the Swahili word for "republic" and the holiday is officially to mark the date of Kenya's establishment as a republic on



12 December, 1964. However, the country also gained full independence from the United Kingdom one year earlier on 12 December, 1963, so Jamhuri Day is a double event and is generally regarded as Kenya's most important holiday, marked by numerous cultural festivities which celebrate the country's cultural heritage.

**Alison Besselaar**  
**Head of Primary**

## PRIMARY LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

### Disability Awareness Day

The Prep to Year 6 students celebrated Disability Awareness Day on Tuesday 2 December and Wednesday 3 December. The Year 4 to 6 students had a member from Wheel Talk come and speak to the students about what it is like being disabled and what lead to his disability. His talk raised student awareness of people with disabilities. After this, the Year 3 to 6 Student Leaders participated in a wheel chair basketball game, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The students didn't realise how difficult it was to play sport in a wheel chair.

The Prep to Year 3 students had Kelsey Greig, (a teacher from St Mary's Hearing of the Deaf School), come and teach the students some basic Auslan (which is the sign language of the Australian spoken deaf community). They learnt different sign languages of common farm animals through the reading of a picture story book and interactive games. The students enjoyed their time and it was amazing to see how much they learnt in such a short period of time.



### 2014 Student Representative Council

What a great success the Primary SRC team has been this year. As a group, they have accomplished many things, such as:

- Crazy Hair Day
- Homework Club for students in Years 4 to 6
- Interclass sports games in Year 5
- Buddy Benches

And lots more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the SRC members that were actively involved in SRC throughout the year, and that gave up their lunch times to attend meetings. 2015 promises to be bigger and better.

**Laura Gazeas**  
**Head of Primary Student Wellbeing**

### Guild Athletics Carnival

On Friday December 5 the Primary school held their Guild Athletics Carnival. Students participated in Sprints, Distance, Jumps, Throws, Relays and Distance. They all competed well and behaved in an excellent manner. Well done to all. Thanks to the Teachers, Students, Parents and Maintenance Staff.

#### Final results were

- 1st Marcellin
- 2nd Chisholm
- 3rd Chanel
- 4th McCormack
- 5th McAuley
- 6th Romero



**Mr Gerard Large**  
**Head of Primary Guild and Sport**

### Parent Volunteers

I would like to thank all the parent helpers for their hard work and assistance throughout the year.

We have been very fortunate to have many parent helpers across the Primary School assisting with the Home Reading Program, working in classrooms and the Resource Centre and assisting me with various Literacy tasks.

Our programs are much enhanced with your input. Your hard work and assistance is much appreciated by the students, teachers, staff and myself. We hope you have enjoyed the opportunity to share in the educational development of our students.

We look forward to working with you again.

Have a wonderful Christmas, enjoy the holidays with your children, stay safe and see you all next year.

**Maree Mullen**  
**Head of Literacy Primary School**

### Reading Stars

#### 100 Nights

Diya Das, Julia Patricio

#### 150 Nights

Shewon Perera, Aleena Thomas

#### 200 Nights

Eliana Cavar, Yeshine Agampodi

## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

### A New Record: Knit A Square Produces 735 Squares For South Africa

On Monday December 1, the square knit circle met for the last time to tally our official number of squares produced for the year and complete the packing process. We are pleased to announce that Marymede's community of knitters produced a whopping 735 knitted squares, which surpasses our previous record of 722. We also sent off 19 individual garments which were beautifully handmade.

After being packed tightly into water tight mailing envelopes, these squares were handed over to Australian Post where they will be soon placed on a ship bound for South Africa. On arrival, these squares will be stitched together to form warm blankets for orphaned and sick children.

I would like to personally thank the wonderful group of Year 4-6 students who came regularly to our knitting sessions, Mrs Jenny Priest who assisted in the running of these sessions, our College administration team who assisted in the postage and our extended community of knitters which exists outside of Marymede Catholic College.

For more information on the program log on to <http://www.knit-a-square.com/> or call the College and request to speak with Andrea Zappulla. ( [andrea.zappulla@marymede.vic.edu.au](mailto:andrea.zappulla@marymede.vic.edu.au) )



**Andrea Zappula**  
**Head Of Chanel**

### Music

#### Looking back over the year...

As we reach the end of another successful year at Marymede Catholic College, it is good to reflect on the many achievements we have made and to look forward to the many opportunities which lay ahead for our students in 2015.

There has been great excitement this year in the Music Department with the introduction of the new 'Musical Futures' approach to learning music in the classroom. Students have been given the choice of learning Keyboard, Drums, Bass Guitar, Electric Guitar or Vocals and they have been using the fantastic rehearsing studio console 'Jam Hub' to immerse themselves in 21st century music making. We have been delighted with the opportunities our students have been offered and we acknowledge the wonderful support we have received from both the College Leadership Team and Musical Futures Australia.



"It's a fun environment where students can learn individually and collaboratively depending on personal choice. It gives everyone an opportunity to play an instrument. It helps us focus because with the JamHub Silent Rehearsal Studio everyone has control over their own and others' volume. The technology enables us to quickly download songs, lyrics, chord symbols, and playing along to the original track gives us confidence and keeps us all together. I love Musical Futures because it enables me to use my own musical abilities in a creative way and the accessibility of resources means that we all can achieve so much more than we used to.

**Nanette Mangoba**  
**Music Captain 2015**

### Assessment

In Music we assess the students' capabilities via a system which focusses on the key skills associated with creativity: Communication, Composition, Performance and Evaluation. This not only provides the students with a focus on building life skills but also creates an environment of 'Individualised Learning' and opportunities for 'Student Choice'.

In an 'informal learning' environment, we as teachers facilitate the students' learning once the student has identified their own learning goals dependent on the students' own needs. The journey of learning begins once the student has committed to being curious, meticulous and focused on each set goal. Technology has increased the students' potential for rapid success and curiosity is the first step in acquiring the knowledge and skills to be successful lifelong learners.

Check out some of the work our students have achieved from Year 7 through to Year 10...

<http://1drv.ms/12UgTIZ>

<http://1drv.ms/10qhg5k>

<http://1drv.ms/1w85VFi>

<http://1drv.ms/1v0Gcbo>

<http://1drv.ms/1xNy2VU>

We acknowledge all the musicians and performers who prepared items for Concerts, Ceremonies, Assemblies, Liturgies and Masses. From the College Production, Concert Band Rehearsals and termly musical concert performances through to our successful Carols by Candlelight, our students have worked so hard and have gained so much experience and pleasure along the way. One of the highlights was the 'An Evening of Music' Concert which was held on Monday 25th August. This was an extravaganza of talent from across the Prep to 12 College. Guests also enjoyed a nibble or two courtesy of staff and students who served food during the event. It was a huge event which included over 100 performers and over 300 guests filling the Fitness Centre.



We congratulate all the members of our Junior Jammers group who stayed back after school on Thursdays to continue the music making! Junior Jammers is a co-curricular activity for students who particularly enjoy creating music in small groups. Here are some photos from the sessions...



We are very much looking forward to 2015 and the opportunities it will bring for our extravagantly curious learners.

### Carols By Candlelight

On Thursday December 4, Marymede Catholic College hosted 'Carols by Candlelight' in the College's Fitness Centre. Planning for this evening's celebration began way back in June of this year and the success of the evening and the pleasure it brought to the students and audience can be attributed to the many members of staff who assisted in many different ways; a real group effort from dedicated staff, passionate about student involvement and the celebration of Advent.

The evening brought together 137 students from across the Prep-12 College to participate in a celebration of Advent and the excitement and anticipation of the season of Christmas. The evening began with a 4 part Liturgy:

- The Annunciation
- No Room at the Inn
- Jesus is Born
- The Shepherds proclaim the Glory of the Lord

The Liturgy was presented by Year 10 student Nanette Mangoba (Music Captain 2015) and incorporated dramatic

scenes from Primary Students and songs performed by the Prep-12 Choir:

- Come, O Come Emmanuel
- Candlelight Carol
- Silent Night
- Away in a Manger
- When a child is born

The Liturgy culminated in the Three Wise Men being joined by nine other Shepherds who moved around the audience handing out small gifts; such a fitting way to bring the true meaning of Christmas to our College Community.

This also marked the beginning of the secular part of the evening and Mr Conor Fennel joined the stage to be our MC for the rest of the evening. He was often interrupted by the mischievous Elves, Charlotte Large and Angelique Perera who would come out on stage and after a little fun dialogue would add festive attire to Mr Fennel.

The staff band was also a huge hit and included a guest student, Damian Santinon (Music Captain 2014) who played Electric Guitar in both 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' and 'All I want for Christmas is you'.

Both the Junior Band and Concert Band came together to hail the arrival of Santa who arrived just in time to draw the raffle. We would like to acknowledge the following supporters and sponsors for donating prizes:

Parents and Friends Committee: Hamper

Cranbourne Music: Acoustic Guitar

Wrights Music: Ukulele

Christmas Elves: 2 x 18 inch statuettes of Mr and Mrs Claus

The evening then concluded with a return to the sacred and the message of Peace on Earth. The students all gathered on stage to sing 'Let there be Peace on Earth'. A wonderful evening of celebration and community. Check out some of the images below...



**Kevin Carville**  
**Head of Music**

## Business Office

Changes To The Education Maintenance Allowance from 2015

From January 1, 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria's neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools' core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

## Office Closed During Christmas Holidays

The College will be closed from 12 pm Friday December 19 and will reopen at 9am January 5, 2015.

**Paul Romanin**  
**Business Manager**

## REGISTRAR NEWS

### New Students

Throughout 2014 Marymede Catholic College welcomed 29 new students into the College across Prep to Year 12 in addition to those who had newly enrolled for the start of the School year. All 29 students settled into the College well and we are proud to have welcomed these students and their families into the Marymede Community.

In 2015, our College will welcome 233 new students across Prep to Year 12. This will see overall enrolments reach an all-time high of 1745 as we enter into our tenth year of operation. We look forward to welcoming our new students and their families into the Marymede Community in 2015.

Our enrolment office is regularly inundated with new applications or enquiries, and the demand for places at Marymede Catholic continues to grow.

### Exit Forms

Any student who is not returning to Marymede Catholic College in 2015 will be required to collect an Exit Form from the Main Office. All Exit Forms are expected to be returned to the Main Office prior to the conclusion of the School year. Families will continue to receive notification and prompts from the College until their Exit forms have been submitted.

Prep 2015

It is a legal requirement for parents to provide an immunisation status certificate when enrolling their child at Primary School. Could parents of Prep 2015 students please ensure that your child's certificate has been submitted to the College. If you are uncertain whether or not the College has a copy of your child's certificate please phone 9407-9000 or email registrar@marymede.vic.edu.au

### Family Contact Details

Should you have a change in contact details such as home address, phone numbers or email address, please contact the

Main Office on 9407-9000 to submit the new information, alternatively you may also wish to email the change to registrar@marymede.vic.edu.au .

## Enrolments

Applications for Year 7 2016 are now open and will close on February 27, 2015.

Applications for Prep 2016 are now open and will close on May 15, 2015.

## College Facebook Page

Be sure to 'like' the official Marymede Catholic College Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/marymedecatholiccollege](http://www.facebook.com/marymedecatholiccollege) to keep up with exciting news and events at the College. The page is updated regularly and is a great form of communication between the College and community. Please be reminded that it is not a requirement for a parent to have their own Facebook account in order to view the College page. Information and news can be read by simply visiting the above link.

## Email Addresses

Our College uses email as a major form of communication to families and will continue to do so in 2015. Please ensure that your family has supplied the College with a valid and current email address to avoid missing out on valuable information regarding news and events. It is a College requirement for all families to have a minimum of one valid, working email address. To submit an email address or check your existing email address, please contact the College or email registrar@marymede.vic.edu.au .

## School Bus Service

Any family interested in using the College Bus service should visit [www.marymede.vic.edu.au/schoolbus2015](http://www.marymede.vic.edu.au/schoolbus2015) to register their details. Important information relating to the 2015 School Bus service will be sent to families early in 2015.

**Matthew Luczek**  
**Registrar**

## CANTEEN NEWS

We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers who readily give up their time to assist us here in the Canteen. Without the help of these dedicated mums our School Canteen would not be able to provide the service we do. We truly appreciate all the time, effort and hard work, even at times, at such short notice.

Thank you to our student volunteers, Bec Hancy, Ivana Mionic, Cameron Hughes, Paul Nehma that have given up their lunch time to help us out.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, parents and students of Marymede Catholic College for your support throughout the year and wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

**Kate & Connie**  
**Canteen Managers**

## UNIFORM SHOP

### The Uniform Store Trading Hours for 2015

#### January 2015

Tuesday Jan 6, 10am to 4pm  
Thursday Jan 8, 10am to 4pm  
Monday Jan 12, 10am to 5pm  
Tuesday Jan 13, 12pm to 6pm  
Thursday Jan 15, 12pm to 6pm  
Saturday Jan 17, 10am to 4pm  
Tuesday Jan 20, 10am to 5pm  
Wednesday Jan 21, 12pm to 5pm  
Thursday Jan 22, 12pm to 5pm

#### Normal Trading Hours Commence

Tuesday 27th January 2015

Our next Saturday trade will be Saturday Jan 17, 2015