



3 August 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of our Marymede Community,

In many ways, this time of the year is one of the most challenging for our students. With the weather often at its worst and still a long way to go in Term 3, this is a time when the focus of all students needs to be on learning and for many, it is a time of decision making.

It was pleasing to see so many interested parents attend the recent Subject Selection Information evening. The best pathway decisions are made after students, parents, Domain Leaders and subject teachers talk and listen to each other. I hope our students set their goals high and strive hard to achieve them, engaging all the learning experiences along the way.

Re-Enrolment Forms

As part of our planning for 2018, re-enrolment forms will be mailed home next week. I ask for your support in returning the forms as soon as possible please. We have a number of families on the waiting list, particularly in the primary school, who are anxious to find out if a position will become available for next year.

Year 11 Retreat

Our Year 11 students will be participating in their two day Christian Leadership Retreat on 10 and 11 August. I look forward to visiting the three retreat sites and talking to the students about the qualities we are looking for in our young people who aspire to be leaders in our school community.

Marymede Day – 15 August

On Tuesday 15 August, we will celebrate Mary's love and commitment to doing God's will. Mary, the Mother of God, is a role model showing us the way to Jesus and how to act towards others.

Our celebration will begin with a Whole School Mass in the Fitness Centre starting at 9.15am. After recess, the students in their Tutor Groups and Year Levels in primary will be involved in a mini fete with the aim being to raise funds for our House Charities. After lunch, a number of our talented singers, musicians and dancers will perform at our concert.

As always, I look forward to our feast day when we come together as a school community to celebrate what we are truly about at Marymede Catholic College.

Year 7 Enrolment Timeline 2019

Catholic Education Melbourne have changed the timeline for Year 7 enrolments for 2019. The last day for enrolments is 25 August. We anticipate strong demand for places so to avoid being placed on the waiting list I strongly encourage parents to submit the enrolment form by the due date. The date for return of the intention forms for our current Year 5 students is 11 August. If you have any questions about the enrolment process please contact our Registrar Matthew Luczek at the college.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

I acknowledge that the car parks in the college grounds are not able to cope adequately with the volume of traffic before and after school. We will be addressing this issue by creating approximately 100 additional car parks when the Early Learning Centre has been built later in the year.

In the meantime, I ask for your support in following the signage around the school in terms of parking and where to enter and exit the college. It is disappointing to hear from staff on duty before and after school that they are being verbally abused by some parents when they have asked them to park in the appropriate car park bays.

I have also been contacted recently by local residents who are not happy that some parents are parking across their driveway in the afternoons. I would not be surprised if there is a strong Whittlesea Council presence in the nearby streets at pick up time in the coming weeks.

**Kind Regards,
Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal**

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS PREP – YEAR 12

Information Evenings

It has been fantastic to see such strong attendance at our recent Year 10 2018 and VCE/VET/VCAL 2018 Information Evenings. Thank-you to the parents who have attended for their engagement and the fantastic questions that were asked on the nights. The presentations from these evenings are available on PAM for any families who were unable to attend.

A reminder to all Year 12 families that the VTAC Information Evening is coming up next Monday August 7. This is an important session for the parents of any student planning to submit a VTAC application to enrol in university in 2019 and will cover key information about submitting and changing course preferences, making SEAS applications for special consideration, and a range of other essentials to navigating the final months of Year 12.

Examination Resits Feedback

Any students who recently completed examination resits will soon have feedback about their results sent out by email. It was great to see so many students take the opportunity to significantly improve their result, to seek out their teachers and get feedback on the areas they needed to work on and to put in place effective study strategies that will allow them to be more confident approach examinations in the future. As mentioned in previous communication, the examinations are a key factor in approving students' subject selections in VCE. The current of structure VCE places significant weight on the final examination - a student's final examination determines more than 50% of their overall score for the subject – and, as such, students choosing a scored VCE pathway need to be able to manage the demands of examinations in their chosen studies.

Primary Curriculum 2018

As primary families would be aware we introduced a range of innovations in our primary curriculum this year, in particular:

- Year 5 and 6 Rotational classes with Secondary Specialist teachers
- 'Specialised' classes in Year 3 & 4 with a member of each year level team teaching Science, Technology, Social & Emotional Learning or Health and Physical Education across the year level
- Levelled numeracy classes from Year 2-6
- Perceptual Motor Program from Prep -Year 2 to build key skills as a foundation for learning

Six months down the track and as we start to plan ahead for 2019, we are beginning the process of reviewing the progress of these new programs. We recently interviewed a group of Grade 4 students to get their feedback on the new approach in their year level and were delighted by their insightful feedback that: "Teachers have become experts in their subjects". We look forward to hearing more from the students about their experiences – both positive and constructively critical – to allow us to continue to strengthen and build on the great work that has begun this year.

**Ms Tracey Kift
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching Prep – Year 12**

CAMPUS CO-ORDINATOR PREP – YEAR 12

Soccer Pitch and Oval Drop-off / Pick-up access

One of the consequences of decreased capacity for drop-off and pick-up via Old Plenty Road is increased traffic through Gates E and F from Williamsons Road. For the safety of children, staff and parents please be reminded of the following:

- Entry to the drop-off / pick-up zone around the Soccer Pitch is via Gate E and **Exit is via Gate G only** (no exit at drop-off / pick-up times back through Gate E).
- Entry to the drop-off / pick-up zone adjacent to the oval is via Gate F and **Exit is via Gate G only**.
- Unless parked in a parking spot, all students should be picked up from pathways adjacent to the Soccer Pitch and Oval and should use designated crossings to access these pathways.
- Please be mindful of staff directions and alert to unexpected children's movement at all times.

We are working with Whittlesea Council to improve traffic flow around the College and with Mill Park Police in monitoring the Old Plenty Road area. We appreciate your co-operation and support for the safety of all members of the community as we manage the surrounding, and on-site, construction works.

Year 10, 11 and 12 Immunisation – Thursday August 31

The Whittlesea Council is immunising against the Meningococcal W strain for which there have been increased cases. Students can return their immunisation cards to the nurses as soon as possible. Students receiving the vaccination can wear their PE uniform on this day. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/Meningococcal-vaccine-for-young-people>

Celebrating Marymede Day 2017 – Tuesday August 15

This day is most important, as it is a significant opportunity when we come together as a learning community of faith, celebrating our identity as a Prep – Year 12 Catholic school.

We begin the day with a Whole College Mass in our Fitness Centre, celebrated by our Chaplain Fr Martin Ashe. After mass

we move into Mission Action Activities where students and staff are working together to have a lot of fun as well as to raise funds for our House Charities and Catholic Social Justice initiatives. Our target amount is \$15,000.

Specific details for each Year Level are explained in a letter on Caremonkey, inclusive of uniform requirements, foods and activities. If you would like to volunteer some time to assist on the day please contact your child's Year Level Co-ordinator or House Co-ordinator and ensure you have an up-to-date WWCC.

Ms Julia Wake
Campus Co-ordinator

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Romero House News

This year the motto that the Romero students have been following is Relationships, Respect, and Rise of Romero 2017. It has had a positive effect on the Romero House students throughout Semester 1 as it encourages us to build and create new friendships within the College and rise to be the best house we can be.

Throughout Semester 1, the Romero House participated in many College events such as Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. It was great for everyone to get involved and continue to build a positive House Spirit.

Romero House continued our strong partnership with St Mary's House of Welcome. Simone Power, the Fundraising, Brand and Community Engagement Manager came to the college and celebrated our Feast Day with us. We gathered donations from the generous Romero families and we sent them to St Mary's for their annual Easter hampers. Thank you for your ongoing support. The donations were also given to Project Compassion and St Vincent De Paul. We would like to take this time to thank everyone for their hard work and generosity throughout Semester 1.

We as House Captains look forward to a positive and enjoyable Semester 2 with Marymede Day coming up on Tuesday 15 August. If you have any questions about the Romero House, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Miss Chelsea Ford and Miss Sienna Cater
Year 12 Romero House Captains 2017

LOTE

Swinburne Poetry Competition

We congratulate Year 8 students Zainab Masalawala (1st in the Non Italian Section) and Claudia Pironi (3rd in the Italian Poetry Section) who were State winners in this competition. Many students also achieved Distinction and High Distinction

awards. Certificates will be presented to students later this term. A big thank you to the Year 8 Italian teachers and Marta Scagnoli our Language Assistant for helping the students with their preparations.



Education World Championship Results

Congratulations to Chloe Falzon, Marian Fernando, Hannah Falzon, Thanoshan Jeyasingarajah, Tiwanthya Konara Mudiyansele, Evelyn Kunwar and Giovanni Sawali who achieved an Elite Award, placing them in the top 0.2% of students worldwide. Many students also achieved Gold, Silver, Bronze and credit awards and these certificates will be presented at future assemblies.

Dante Results

Daniel Sabatino and Dimitri Bachos participated in the final of the Dante Algieri Poetry Competition. Both students advanced to the second round with Daniel finishing 11th in Italian category and Dimitris finishing 17th overall for the State. This is an incredible achievement in this highly prestigious competition.



Study Tours 2018

Thank you to all students and families who have applied for next year's study tour to Japan and/or to host a Japanese exchange student in October. On Tuesday August 8, we will be holding our Italian Trip information evening from 7pm in the College Auditorium. All students currently studying Italian in Year 9 and 10 and their families are encouraged to come along and find out more about this wonderful opportunity.

Ms Allison Lemar
Head of Languages

Film School Returns

Marymede Film School is back and celebrating 5 years

Film School is a filmmaking workshop where students from Years 6 - 12 collaborate on the creation of a short film every Wednesday after school in SS03. Students will form small production teams and specialise in scriptwriting, directing and

cinematography, or editing. The filmmakers will walk the red carpet for the premiere of their short films at the annual Iris Media Showcase.



Hope to see you there.
Mr Jeremy Guzman
Head of Visual Arts

Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award

On Tuesday July 18, Jehaan Nigam (Year 9), Chloe Falzon (Year 9) and Nicholas Melchiorre (Year 8) represented Marymede Catholic College at the regional heats of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award. This award honours the ideals of voluntary service, social justice, sacrifice and mateship. The students were a credit to the College, delivering prepared speeches of five minutes and an impromptu of two minutes. All of the students spoke with passion and sincerity, and Chloe was runner-up after her inspiring speech on feminism and its continuing relevance. Well done to Jehaan, Chloe and Nicholas on their superb efforts and achievements.



Jehaan, Chloe and Nicholas with their certificates.

Mrs Laura Wilcox
Public Speaking Co-ordinator

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Start Smart Financial Literacy - Year 6

We recently welcomed Start Smart to deliver their free, financial education workshops to our Year 6 students on Tuesday 25 July. Delivered in class to students by a facilitator called Teresa, Start Smart changes the way young people learn about money. By making money management interactive, engaging and fun, our students will be equipped with the confidence and competence they need to make smart decisions about money.

Our school has proudly joined the Commonwealth Bank's Start Smart Program in its mission to improve the financial literacy of Australia's young people. Overall, the program proved to be a highly beneficial experience for students and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. For more information on the program and each of the workshops we encourage you to visit the link below.

<http://www.startsmart.com.au>

START SMART

Ms Alison Lappin
Year 6 Level Co-ordinator

Primary Sport

Year 4 Basketball

On Friday July 28, thirty-five Year 4 students competed in the Victorian Hoop Time Competition

Results are as follows:

- **All Star Boys A Team:** Premiers - 22-0 in the Grand Final
- **All Star Girls A Team:** Premiers - 16- 2 in the Grand Final
- **Future Stars Mixed Team:** Premiers in the Grand Final



Football News

The Year 5 and 6 Football team played in the SSV Division Competition. Their first game was against St Patricks Kilmore and we defeated them 60 to 6.

We then progressed to the final and played Plenty Parklands and we defeated them 31 to 6.

The team have now progressed to the Regional finals this Thursday August 3. We wish the well.



Tee Ball

The Boys and Girls Primary Tee Ball teams played off in their Division Final with the boys winning on the day and progressing through to regionals. The girls had a strong start, though were beaten by Mill Park Primary.



Upcoming Dates

Bridge inn Athletics – Friday August 25
Senior Primary Hoop Time – Friday September 1
Walk to School Day - Friday September 15

Ms Liz Miles
Primary Sports Assistant

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Our school is participating in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (Data Collection). This Data Collection is taking place in Government, Catholic and Independent schools across Australia, and will provide valuable information about supports required for a broad group of students. This will enable Australian and State governments to better target support and resources in schools. This in turn will help schools give students with disability the support they need.

The Data Collection is not limited to students with diagnosed disabilities. It uses a very broad definition of disability, taken from the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, which describe a broad range of health and learning conditions for which schools are required to provide 'reasonable adjustments' to support students to participate on the same basis as other students.

The Data Collection will take place during Term 3. No personal or identifying information about any student will be included, however, if you decide you do not wish information about your child to be included in the Data Collection, you can opt-out by e-mailing me directly: robyn.thomson@marymede.vic.edu.au. More information about the Data Collection is available on the following website below, or you could contact me if you have any further questions.

<http://www.education.gov.au/what-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>

Ms Robyn Thomson
Learning Enhancement Co-coordinator P-12

BUSINESS MANAGER

Inconsistent Funding Policy Will Cost Catholic Systems \$1.1 Billion

The National Catholic Education Commission has said despite Education Minister Simon Birmingham's claims of delivering consistent treatment for non-government schools, systemic Catholic schools will be disadvantaged over the next decade because of cuts in Commonwealth funding allocation to hundreds of schools in 2018.

Under the Turnbull Government's new funding model, schools that are funded above 80 per cent of their Commonwealth share of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) will transition down to 80 per cent by 2027. This year, several hundred systemic Catholic schools are receiving more than 80 per cent of the Commonwealth share of the SRS.

However, under the new model, those schools will receive cuts in their Commonwealth funding allocation – including some very significant cuts – to below 80 per cent of the Commonwealth share of the SRS and then transition up to that target by 2023.

"As more becomes known about the Gonski 2.0 school funding plan, it is clear that the Minister has not delivered consistency or equitable treatment," NCEC executive director Christian Zahra said.

"If the Minister truly wanted fairness and consistency across school sectors, he would be treating non-government schools at similar positions relative to the SRS in the same way," Mr Zahra explained.

"Our analysis shows that a Catholic systemic school with a Commonwealth funding share above 80 per cent of the SRS will have its funding cut – dramatically in some cases – on January 1, 2018, settling below 80 per cent.

"But a standalone independent school will spend 10 years transitioning down to 80 per cent of the Commonwealth share of the SRS, never falling below 80 per cent, and enjoying a significant financial advantage over the decade."

When that inconsistent treatment is considered across the country, Catholic systemic schools will be disadvantaged by almost \$1.1 billion over the next decade.

"If all non-government schools were being treated consistently, fairly and equitably, it wouldn't only be standalone independent schools that enjoy a 10-year period of adjustment to a new

funding reality. Systemic schools would also enjoy that smooth transition and the financial benefit that results from it," Mr Zahra said.

"While Catholic systems will still receive a single payment and can redistribute funding, the abandonment of the system-weighted average socioeconomic status score means that systems are essentially being treated as a collection of schools whose individual funding allocations are added together.

"The Minister wants to have his cake and eat it, too. He is seeking to fund Catholic schools as standalone schools when it benefits him but seeking to treat them as systemic schools when it benefits him."

More concerns raised about students with disability funding

The Australian Education Union and the Australian Labor Party have accused the Turnbull Government of failing to deliver adequate support for students with disability under its new school funding model.

Despite significant concerns about the validity of a new way of assessing students' learning needs via the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) process, the NCCD will determine funding levels from 2018.

Under existing funding arrangements, students who receive a medical diagnosis for a disability receive the same additional funding regardless of the adaptation required to support their education. Under the NCCD, there are four categories of disability, with teachers assessing into which category a student falls. Students in the three highest levels of disability attract additional funding to support their learning.

Last December, responding to questions about the NCCD collection process, Education Minister Simon Birmingham said the data "fails a basic credibility test". However, it was part of the Government's school funding reform package, which passed through the Parliament last month.

AEU federal president Correna Haythorpe said there wasn't enough evidence to support the Government's approach to funding for students with disability.

"Firstly, it has set the levels of funding according to what it wanted to spend rather than the real costs of educating students with different needs," she told The Australian.

"Secondly, by arbitrarily limiting the overall amount of funding it provides to public schools to 20 per cent of what is required, it has ensured that areas of disadvantage, such as disability, will never be properly funded by the federal Government."

Shadow Education Minister Tanya Plibersek said it is "completely unacceptable" that the number of students with disability is set to double under the new system but "many students will miss out on the help they need".

In comments provided to The Australian, National Catholic Education Commission executive director Christian Zahra said Catholic schools and systems remain concerned about the NCCD's introduction in 2018.

"The use of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data in the new school funding model is premature," Mr Zahra said.

"We agreed with Minister Birmingham when he said just a few months ago that the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data 'fails a basic credibility test'. We think it is therefore unwise to begin using it to determine funding for almost half a million students at this point, considering no obvious improvements have been made.

"It is also concerning, and somewhat puzzling, to see that despite PWC analysis showing Catholic schools had the most robust collection procedures, funding for students with disability in Catholic schools will decline, while funding will increase in other sectors, significantly in some instances."

Education Minister Simon Birmingham said there are "review and independent audit mechanisms in place, such as our National Schools Resourcing Board, to guarantee integrity in the system".

A recent quality assurance report by PwC raised concerns about the consistency of data collection between and within states and territories and school sectors.

School fees Future

Given the above statements by the National Catholic Education Commission and the continued uncertainty of federal funding per student. The College will endeavour to keep school fees at a minimum increase in 2018 and future years, without compromising curriculum opportunities, outcomes, resources and facilities for students at the College.

We anticipate that 2018 school fees to be released later in Term 3.

Mr Paul Romanin
Business Manager

COMMUNITY MASS

