



3 December 2020

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

The VCE Units 3 & 4 exams have now ended and I again congratulate our students for the level of commitment they have shown over the last few trying weeks. The students now anxiously await their results which will be released on 30 December.

### Primary Celebrations of Learning / Secondary Awards

This week we held our Years 5 & 6 Celebrations of Learning and the Years 7-11 Awards as year level events in line with the Government regulations. The Prep-Year 4 celebrations will be released to homes from 6.30pm on Friday 4 December to enable families to watch the celebrations over the weekend.

Whilst it is disappointing that parents have not been able to join their children at these celebrations this year, we hope parents enjoyed the online presentations as a way of marking the conclusion of what has truly been a most unique year.

### 2021 Prep / Year 7 Transitions

The College has been restricted by Government regulations this term in regard to the transition program we have been able to offer our incoming Prep and Year 7 students and their families. A big thank you to Prep staff Krystal Crichton, Rita Casonato, Transition Coordinator Corinne Niall and Registrar Carolyn Key for their efforts in welcoming our new Prep and Year 7 families into our College Community.

We will ensure that early in the 2021 school year that our new families will be able to tour the campus and meet the staff members who will be working closely with their children.

## Key Dates for End of 2021 and Start of 2021

<b>Friday 4 December:</b>	Final day for Years 7-9 students
<b>Friday 11 December:</b>	Final day for Prep-Year 6 students
<b>Friday 18 December:</b>	College office closes

## 2021

<b>Monday 18 January:</b>	College office reopens
<b>Friday 29 January:</b>	Years 7 & 12 (and Unit 3 Year 11) students return / Prep Meet the Teacher by appointment / Years 1-6 Testing
<b>Monday 1 February:</b>	Year 3-11 students return / Prep Meet the Teacher by appointment / Years 1-6 Testing
<b>Tuesday 2 February:</b>	All students P-12 in attendance

## Student News

Congratulations to 2020 Year 12 student Indiana Bodley on winning a basketball scholarship to the University of Louisiana in the United States. This is a fantastic achievement by Indiana and we wish her every success in her basketball career.

## Farewell to Staff

The sad part of the years' end is the inevitable farewell to those staff who are moving on from the College for a variety of reasons. I wish to acknowledge long-standing staff members Melinda Muir and Angie Bedford for their significant contribution to our College over a number of years. I also thank other departing staff members for their commitment to our College and wish them every happiness and success going forward.

## 2021

I am delighted to report that at the time of writing this final Newsletter, we anticipate our starting student population in 2021 to be in excess of 1950 students, which is an increase of 35 from the same time this year. I thank our parents for the confidence you are showing in Marymede Catholic College to provide a 'Complete' education for your children.

### Christmas Greetings

At the end of what has been a very challenging year for all members of the Marymede Community, I take this opportunity to thank our teachers and classroom support staff for their support of all of our students this year.

I wish our Marymede families and staff a well-earned break and a happy, holy and safe Christmas.

**Mr. Michael Kenny**  
**Principal**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

### Celebrating the end of 2020 as cohorts

By the time you are reading this article all bar one of our Awards Assemblies and Celebrations of Learning will have been held, thanks to Victoria reaching the official 'elimination' threshold of 28 days with no COVID-19 cases. At Marymede we treasure the sense of community that we have been unable to foster in-person for most of this year so it was wonderful to at least be able to acknowledge our high achievers across all areas of college life in front of their peers and be able to stream the assemblies to families at home.

Families of students in **Prep – Year 4** will be looking forward to the video stream of their Celebrations of Learning to be released to homes on the **evening of Friday 4 December**, to enable families to watch the celebrations together with their children at their leisure over the weekend. The link to this event will be emailed to P-4 families on Thursday 3 December.

We express our deep thanks to the many staff and students who put in extra work for these COVID-safe assemblies, including a special new recording by senior students of the Marymede Anthem in lieu of the restriction on singing together. I look forward to a 2021 that enables greater parental involvement on-campus and the opportunity to meet more families in-person.

### Office & finance closure from 12.30pm on 15 December

Tuesday 15 December marks the final day for teaching staff for 2020. Due to the whole-staff end-of-year celebrations on this day, most staff will be unavailable on that day and the entire College – including the office and finance – will be closed from 12.30pm onwards. Main reception and the Finance office will re-open from 8am on Wednesday 16 December and then close for 2020 on Friday 18 December.



### A Safe, Happy & Holy Christmas wish

On behalf of all leaders and staff involved in wellbeing and organisation in our College, I wish each member of our community a Happy & Holy Christmas. As Christians, this is normally a time of unfettered joy at the birth of Our Lord and the gathering of families and parishes to celebrate together. Whatever limitations there are on your spiritual and familial celebrations, may you be safe and may you know the presence of God both within and watching over you, just as the angels and God watched over the Holy Family in the restricted circumstances of Jesus' birth in the stable.



**Mr David Broadbent**  
**Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

### Academic Awards

As the end of the year nears, we have had the opportunity to acknowledge student excellence in their learning at a range of awards assemblies held this week. The awards distributed are as follows:

#### Year 5-6

**Academic Excellence** – Demonstrated an excellent work ethic and have excelled in class by achieving a high academic standard.

**Academic Endeavour** – Demonstrated excellent work habits and contributed positively to the learning environment but working to the best of their ability.

#### Year 7-11

**Academic Excellence** – One student per class. Awarded to the student who has achieved the highest average in their assessment this semester in their class.

**Academic Endeavour** – One student per class. Awarded to the student who has showed learning growth and positive dispositions throughout this semester.

Subject Dux – One student per subject. Awarded to the student who has the highest average in their assessments over the year; e.g. Year 7 English Subject Dux is the student ranked first in the cohort based on their assessment tasks. Where results are tied the teacher will consider formative assessment and learning dispositions.

I would like to congratulate all our award recipients on their outstanding achievement.

## Student News

Congratulations to

Congratulations to Year 8 Matilda Brereton (McCormack 2) on her success in the ABC writing competition 'Takeover Melbourne' – giving youth a voice. You can listen to her story [HERE](#) about one of her passions: rocks. An amazing achievement Matilda.

## Reports

The Semester 2 reports will outline student progress over the last 2 terms and be reflective of both home and on-campus learning. Reporting advice from Catholic Education Melbourne reflects the changing nature of education this year and therefore schools are only required to identify progression on the 5-point scale for the Victorian Curriculum Strands for English, Mathematics and Religious Education. Teachers will make their best judgement around student progression based on the data and evidence we have been able to collect this semester. Should you have any questions about your child's report upon its receipt please don't hesitate to contact the relevant teacher. Reports will be available via the Parent Access Module (PAM) on Friday 11 December from 12.00pm.

## Holiday Homework

It is an expectation that all students completing VCE in 2021 complete holiday homework. Completion of this work is critical to setting students up for success and allows them to begin to familiarise themselves with both the content and skills required to be demonstrated in the first outcome of the unit. During commencement classes over the past fortnight teachers have outlined to students what they are required to complete and the deadline for this work. Students that do not submit their holiday homework by the due date will be issued with a detention.

Whilst holiday homework is not compulsory for students in year 7-10 for 2021, I would ask that you encourage your son or daughter to read their English texts and maintain some wider reading of their choice.

## 2021 Testing Days

There are 2 testings days at the commencement of the 2021 school year (Friday 29 January, and Monday 1 February) for all students in Grade 1 – Grade 6. Given the reduced on-campus time for students this year we have not been in the position to complete all of our usual testing and data gathering. In order to ensure we can target our teaching and learning programs to student's individual needs, additional testing will be conducted, and data analysed early in the 2021 school year. The process for booking a testing spot will be communicated in the week beginning 18 January 2021.

## Subject Changes

Students in year 8-12 next year have received their subject confirmation for 2021. If students wish to request a change any of their subjects, they must download and print the "Application to change subject from" from SIMON Knowledge Banks > Subject Selection. This form must be signed by a parent and additional signatories as outlined on the form. Subject change requests must be submitted and finalised prior to the conclusion of Term 1, Week 2.

## The year that was...

2020 will not be a year any of us forget any time soon. The year where schools pivoted, and we relied on parents more than ever to work in partnership with us in supporting student learning. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in the programs and platforms developed during home learning and in our approach upon student return to classes on-campus. The strength of the Marymede community has been insurmountable this year and I feel privileged to have been able to join it.

Wishing you a safe and sacred Christmas season and I'm looking forward to meeting more parents next year.

**Mrs Jessica Hall**

**Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12**

## DIRECTOR OF FAITH & MISSION

### Marist 2021 Student Leaders Gathering

Seven of our 2021 student leaders joined school leaders from 12 other Marist schools for an online Leadership Retreat. They heard the similar experiences and stories from student leaders from Western Australia, South Australia and regional and metropolitan Victoria. The retreat focused on how they could strengthen their leadership with the characteristics of Simplicity, Solidarity, Presence, Love of Work, Family Spirit and In the way of Mary.



### House Charity Christmas Appeal – can we reach our target for each House?

Each year we run a Christmas Appeal for CatholicCare in asking children to bring in Christmas goods that would suit a particular Refugee Family. This year is a bit different!

Marymede has been used to promote the CatholicCare Giving Tree Appeal which is an on-line appeal for 2020. We thought we would extend this to our other House Charities so that we can continue the campaign that began with Marymede Day in August. We have approximately 300 families in each House, so if every family was able to donate \$5, we would meet the target of \$1500 for the chosen House charity. Further details are also on PAM.

## Donation Page Information:

### MARCELLIN:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/maristsolidarity>

### CHANEL:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/catholicmission>

### CHISHOLM:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/chisholmbasp>

### McAULEY:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/mercyworks>

### McCORMACK: (All funds raised will go to the Giving Tree Appeal)

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/catholiccare>

### ROMERO:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/houseofwelcome>

Many thanks to our Year 11 VCAL Students who have provided the promotion material for the Houses.

### Ms Julia Wake

**Director of Faith & Mission**

## STUDENT WELLBEING

### How to find JOY in the School Holidays

2020 has been a year like no other and our school holidays have been impacted by curfews and compliance. Now that restrictions are lifting, families can participate in holiday pursuits that refresh, recharge, and energise us all, prior to the new school year.

Parenting expert Dr Justin Coulson provides some food for thought about how to spend time as a family making the most of the long summer break.

School holidays are a chance for families to shake off the end of term 'blahs' and find a bit of joy in their lives.

Here are some ways to do that and make the most of the holidays.

- Limit Screen Time. After a long year in front of screens take the time to set boundaries over summer. Let the kids enjoy some downtime staring at a screen – guilt free. But make sure it's balanced with other activities.
- Get creative with activities! Visit newly reopened Libraries, museums, art galleries, community gardens which are often free.
- Being bored is okay! It gives our kids a chance to be creative, to explore, and to learn to deal with what life serves up.
- Anxiety & stress. Sometimes find parents and children who find school holidays stressful rather than relaxing. Try not to overload yourself with pressures at home (and at work). Schedule in some quiet times, and some time for yourself as well.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/blog/how-to-find-the-joy-in-school-holidays/>

Take care over the festive season and enjoy the small moments with your family. We look forward to continuing our work in 2021, supporting the Wellbeing of the Marymede Community!

**Ms Lisa Murray**

**Student Wellbeing P-6**

## LAND CARE GRANT



We are very excited to announce that Marymede are one of 113 schools and youth organisations to receive a 2020 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant.

We're using our \$5000 grant for our 'Bush Tucker' and 'Birds, Bees and Butterflies' garden project. Involvement in the design and creation of these gardens will enable students to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, the use of native bush foods in cooking and gardening with indigenous species.

The Victorian Government is funding these grants to provide young Victorians in schools, groups and communities an opportunity to participate in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground projects, and environmental learning activities that provide both environmental and educational outcomes, as well as health and social benefits.

Parents and students, for further information or if you would like to be involved please contact: Mrs Carlile [michelle.carlile@marymede.vic.edu.au](mailto:michelle.carlile@marymede.vic.edu.au)

**Mrs Michelle Carlile**  
**Teacher**

## PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

### Instrumental Music Semester 1 2021

New enrolments for **Instrumental Music Semester 1 2021** are **now open** and will close on **Wednesday 16 December 2020**. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument either privately or in a pair please contact Performing Arts Assistant - Ellen Lane [ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au](mailto:ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au) at the latest by **Monday 14 December** for more information and enrolment

procedure. Please note there is currently a wait list for some instruments as teachers may be at capacity with numbers.

Current students enrolled in Instrumental Music this year who no longer wish to continue please submit this request in writing to [ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au](mailto:ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au) or simply click **decline** on the Operoo (formerly CareMonkey) enrolment form. The deadline was **Monday 16 November 2020** so if you wish to withdraw please do so ASAP. Current students not confirmed will unfortunately forfeit their place in the program.

### Sessional Dance Semester 1 2021

New enrolments for **Sessional Dance Semester 1 2021** are now open and will close on **Wednesday 16 December 2020**. If your child is in Yr.5-12 next year and is interested in developing their dance talents please contact Performing Arts Assistant - Ellen Lane [ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au](mailto:ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au) by **Monday 14 December 2020** for more information and enrolment procedure.

We are excited to welcome Hip Hop teacher extraordinaire Dagogo Obogo to Sessional Dance 2021. As an in-demand and accomplished choreographer, Dagogo has choreographed and taught dance styles like Hip Hop, Commercial Jazz, various Cultural Dances and creative development classes in more than 100 schools and choreographed productions made up of more than 1,000 people for various school productions, carnivals, events and shows. Notorious for his creative choreography, Dagogo's strengths make him an incredibly inspiring and fun dance teacher. Dagogo always aims to make a student's day just a little brighter. He always gets the best out of the students as he brings inspiration, drama, dance and oh so much personality.



Those students already enrolled in Sessional Dance this year who no longer wish to continue please submit this request in writing to [ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au](mailto:ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au) or simply click **decline** on the Operoo (formerly CareMonkey) enrolment form by no later than **Friday 27 November**, otherwise the College assumes students will be participating under the same agreement for a full year and the next full semester fees will be payable. The information sheet outlining costs, terms and conditions can be accessed for those already enrolled via Operoo (formerly CareMonkey) for reference.

**Mr Jeremy Ives - Head of Performing Arts (P-12)**  
**Ms Ellen Lane - Performing Arts and Co-Curricular Assistant**

## CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

### School Productions 2020/2021

The challenges of remote learning and lockdown have not stopped the High School Musical cast, who have persevered to rehearse remotely and in 'bubbles'. With the recent limitations on group singing, some of the performers have jumped into the recording both solo to lay down their vocals for our upcoming special presentation of the show, and this week we enjoyed all of the cast members coming together to film choreography. You can virtually watch the final product on Monday December 14 – click here to book your tickets!

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNEYZ>

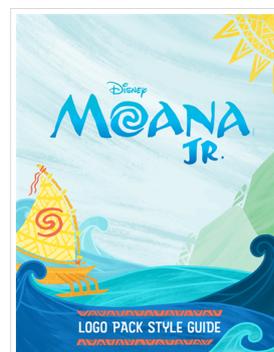
Earlier this week, we also announced our 2021 Junior Musical, 'Moana Jr.'. We look forward to our 2021 Year 5 to 9 students showing us what they've got! In case you missed the announcement, here it is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELx1pO0NGUM>

We are also delighted to announce the return of the senior school play. 2021 Years 10-12 students are invited to audition for Antigone. See Mr Ives for audition information.

### Co-Curriculum House Winners 2020

Congratulations to Romero (Primary) and McAuley (Secondary) for winning the inaugural Co-Curriculum House Shields in 2020. It was a massive achievement in a year where co-curriculum was in person and remote.



**Ms Angie Bedford**  
**Cultural Co-Curricular Coordinator P-12**  
**Producer & Co-Director, High School Musical**