



11 February 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

Classes are well and truly underway, and our staff and students are getting on with the business of learning. In these early days, our upper Primary and Secondary students should be organising their studies by doing homework, background reading and forward planning.

The level of time commitment varies with each year level, but the valuable skills of time management, organisation and task completion are pertinent to all students.

Opening of the School Year Mass

Our Opening School Mass on Thursday 4 February was a wonderful celebration of welcoming. Our College Chaplain Fr. Martin Ashe talked in his homily about the importance of all students being a shining light for good in our school community. We continually emphasise to our students that Marymede is first and foremost a Christian and Catholic Community where everyone is welcomed.

Student Enrolments 2021

We have started the year with a student population of 1973 which is 65 more than at this time last year. There are 270 new students to the College which is a wonderful endorsement of the quality of the curricular and co-curricular program we offer at Marymede.

Induction of Student Leaders

At our Opening School Mass last Thursday, we inducted our Student Leaders for the 2021 school year. I congratulate the students on being appointed to lead the student body. The greatest responsibility of our leaders is to serve. This service includes tasks such as providing a listening ear or helping someone feel safe. It also includes the responsibility of making our school a better place for those who will follow.

Family Holidays

I fully support the importance that families place on taking time to go away on holidays together. In the hustle and bustle of our everyday commitments, having the chance to spend time together can often bring the family unit closer. I also understand that it is not always possible to take leave from work in the school holidays.

In my experience, the best learning for your children takes place in the classroom with their teacher. In many cases, children have been disadvantaged, particularly in their senior years, by being absent from class for lengthy periods whilst away on a family holiday in term time.

Ash Wednesday – the Beginning of Lent: 17 February

Our College Community will acknowledge the beginning of Lent – 40 days of fasting and reflecting on how we might be ‘missing the mark’ in our lives from Wednesday 17 February. Ashes will be distributed in the following ways:

- Community Mass: 8.00am in the Chapel of the Annunciation
- Primary and Secondary House Liturgies: during AM Assembly Period (9.00 – 9.45am)

Marymede Advisory Council (formerly Board)

I take this opportunity to inform the College Community that after ten years of dedicated service, our Board Chair Mrs Jo-Anne Mazzeo has made the decision to step down from the position. Jo-Anne has been strongly committed to seeing the College develop and to provide the best facilities we were able to for all students within the constraints of the College Budget. I also have appreciated the support Jo-Anne as offered me in the last six years.

Mr. Peter Moutsatsos has accepted my offer to become the new Chair of the College’s Advisory Council. Peter has been a parent at the school for the past five years and has two daughters, Isabella (Year 10) and Sophia (Year 6). I look forward to working closely with Peter this year.

Staffing Update

Since my last Newsletter in 2020, there have been two staff members who after many years of service to the College, have resigned and taken up other positions in Catholic Primary schools in Victoria.

Ms Julia Wake is the new Deputy Principal Religious Education at St. Patrick's Primary School in Kilmore. Ms Margie Hough has accepted a primary teaching position at Good Samaritan in Roxburgh Park. I thank Julia and Margie for their commitment to our College and wish them every happiness in their new schools.

Picking Up Children from the Primary Carpark

We acknowledge that last week there were some teething problems with the after school collecting of Primary school children. We would never compromise the safety of our young children and we will continue to explore different arrangements to try and make the link between parents/grandparents and child as safe and efficient as possible.

We do ask that parents who are entering the College campus on foot to please wear a face mask (this excludes parents who have a medically approved reason for not wearing a mask).

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Vincent Drive roadworks extended to end of February

The College has been advised by the Whittlesea City Council that construction works along Vincent Drive will be extended until the end of February 2021.

This will mean continuing delays along a section of the road near the secondary vehicle exit gate that will frequently be reduced to a one-direction single lane, controlled by traffic lights or traffic control staff. Parents are advised to allow extra time in travelling to the College via Vincent Drive until the roadworks are completed. The construction works also mean there is no pedestrian access for students via Gate 7.

Please see the details below as provided by Whittlesea City Council:



Parking & Safety around schools

A number of parents have contacted the College to express frustration with the traffic that banks up and often blocks Williamsons Road completely. While the College has discussed this with both the Whittlesea Council and local police, we do not have control over roads nor crossings external to the College. The council has just approved an additional internal road for the College that will ease some of the traffic flow on Williamsons Road and provide additional drop-off / pick-up zones; however, we do not anticipate this will be operational until 2022.

The Whittlesea Council have asked all parents to please read the attachment below and to be conscious of not blocking traffic flow by instead parking in the train station carpark or considering alternative ways for your child to be picked up that do not block traffic on Williamsons Road.

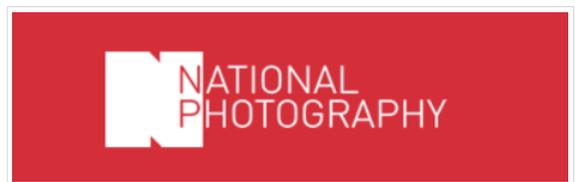
Photo Day: Monday 22 February

A final reminder to current Marymede families that School photos are scheduled to take place during the school day on Monday 22 February 2020, with sibling photos taking place from 3.30pm – 7.00pm. The College will use the services of National Photography who offer value packages and simplified ordering processes for our families. Students will be provided with personalised order forms including ordering and package details this week.

Families wishing to arrange sibling photos will need to book your sibling photo session via the 2-step instructions emailed to families on 4 February. Please note that Sibling Photo bookings are limited and will close on Thursday 18 February at 1.00pm (if not booked out beforehand). Ordering instructions for sibling photos will be provided at the photo session.

Uniform expectations for all students are per the grooming standards in our Student Planner and as provided in the Principal's Newsletter of 21 January, with all students expected to wear their full Summer Uniform (no P.E uniform allowed). Students in Years 7-12 will be required to wear their College Blazer. Any student who is determined by College staff to not meet the uniform and grooming requirements will not have their individual photo taken on 22 February and not be included in class / year level photographs. A 'catch-up' day on Monday 22 March will provide the opportunity for individual photos for students who are either absent or fail to meet the uniform and grooming requirements on 22 February.

Photos taken on the day will be used by the College for Student ID Cards and the College Yearbook, along with special Year level related folios such as our Year 12 Graduation Folio.



Communication with Teachers

At Marymede, we strongly value our partnership with parents and encourage clear, frequent and respectful communication. Due to the duties of teachers both inside and outside of the classroom it is often difficult to directly contact a teacher by

phone. Email is the preferred form of initial communication, as this enables staff to access and respond when they are not teaching or engaged in their other duties. Of course, for certain issues it is preferable to communicate more directly via phone: a request for a phone call is most easily made via email, clearly indicating the nature of your enquiry so that the staff member is best prepared to assist you.

College policy is that staff will respond to communication within two school days: we ask parents to please be patient in awaiting timely response. In order to appropriately manage the workload of staff, the College policy also encourages staff to only access their emails between 7.00am and 7.00pm on their designated days at the College. We thank parents for your understanding and encourage you to contact your child's teacher directly via email for feedback at any stage. Parents and guardians can most easily access a teacher's direct email via PAM. Simply click on your child's profile picture and select the link 'Email Staff' to choose the relevant teacher of your child.

Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

P-6 Learning

The classroom spaces are looking bright and students have settled in well to their new classes, establishing new routines and making connections with their teachers and peers. The inquiry for this term is "Identity" which works nicely with our current wellbeing initiative – Respectful Relationships. Parents have been emailed the curriculum overview for the term and I would encourage you to regularly discuss with your child what they've been working on in class. Should you have any concerns about your child's progress please contact their core teacher. The school-parental partnership continued to strengthen during Home Learning last year and this is something we are committed to consolidating.

Tutor Learning Initiative

The Tutor Learning Initiative (TLI) has been funded by the Department of Education during the 2021 calendar year. The Tutor Learning Initiative is designed to support students whose learning has been disrupted as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic across P-12.

The TLI will address both literacy and numeracy support. With the support of our classroom teachers, I will be working to identify the students who may qualify for the program.

We will be using existing assessment data and teacher judgement, supported by school-based moderation processes, to identify students in need of tutoring support. These judgements are based on multiple sources of evidence including classroom-based observations, existing classroom-based assessment schedules and standardised assessments.

As you can imagine, this is a time-consuming process and we certainly do not want to overlook any student, so we ask that

you remain patient. Families will be contacted in the coming weeks if your child is to be included on the program.

Parent Access Module

Parents will find details of all Year 7-12 Assessment Tasks that are allocated to their children via the Parent Access Module (PAM) under Learning Area Tasks. You are encouraged to check this regularly to identify overdue tasks, in addition to assisting your child in planning their time where they have multiple tasks due for completion. PAM is linked to **one email account** per family. Please ensure this email address is validated when you login to PAM as communication from your children's teachers may be generated via PAM and will therefore be missed if this is not the email address most frequently checked. You can change your registered email address via PAM.

VCE High Achievers Assembly

On Monday we welcomed back some of our high achievers from the Class of 2020. Students heard from our Dux – Chloe Falzon about her experiences at Marymede and she stated, "Throughout my school journey, I've experienced a lot of highs and lows, but the setbacks I faced only motivated me to work harder." Students heard about the need for balance and finding time to still pursue passions and interests. We are extremely proud of the achievements of last year's Year 12 cohort and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to come together and recognise so many students. As we commence the new school year I look forward to the ongoing commitment and dedication of our class of 2021 as they work towards achieving great success and fulfilling their learning potential.



Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

FAITH & MISSION

Opening of the School Year Mass

It was with a great sense of joy that we were able to gather as a whole student community (except our Preps who are just getting used to life at Marymede!) for our Opening School Year Mass last week. While the government's snap call the night before to wear masks meant it wasn't quite yet 'life as normal', it was heartening to be able to celebrate our faith as a united community. We are grateful to the many contributors to such a large celebration, particularly our ministry team and the staff and student musicians who led the singing. It was also wonderful to have our student leaders and Fire Carriers able to

be blessed and inducted in front of their peers. While conscious of being COVID-safe, we look forward to more chances to worship together and build community in 2021.



Upcoming Faith & Mission Events

- **Gamechangers Formation Camp:** Thursday 11 February – Saturday 13 February
- **Ash Wednesday:** Wednesday 17 February – Season of Lent begins. Students will have the option of receiving Ashes or a Blessing at the Liturgies on this day.
- **Year 12 Retreat:** Wednesday 3 March – Friday 5 March
- **Catholic Education Week:** 14 – 21 March
- **Sunday Community Mass:** 10.30am, 15 March.
- **Romero House Mass & Feast Day:** Tuesday 16 March
- **St Patrick's Day Mass (selected students):** Wednesday 17 March, St Patrick's Cathedral.
- **Holy Thursday Liturgies:** Thursday 1 April.

PRIMARY WELLBEING

START Up Week 2021 Student Wellbeing

A new school year has commenced at Marymede and this can only mean that it is time for START Up!



The classrooms were abuzz during START Up week, as the Teachers and students of Marymede reconnected, developed new relationships, unpacked classroom expectations, and set the tone for the year ahead.

After the disruptions of 2020, START Up week has allowed everyone in the Primary school reflect on their how they can positively contribute to the Marymede learning community and set their own goals for 2021.

The aims of START Up Week are:

- To assist with transition into new levels/ grades.
- To promote a sense of community and welcoming.
- To promote positive thinking and a growth mindset as learners.

Everyone's achievements were celebrated during the START Up assembly where students decorated a lightbulb as a visual reminder to display around the school that we can be the light that shines for others at Marymede.



Students and teachers will refer to the START up theme throughout the term to promote a positive and passionate learning environment for all at Marymede in 2021.

Prep Buddies

Year 6 students were very excited as they meet their Prep buddies for fruit snack on the Prep lawn last week. Nervous smiles became vibrant conversations as the eldest students in the primary school connected with the youngest students.

"Helping children to form empathic, supportive and caring relationships with an older child as soon as they enter school is one of the best ways of ensuring they will develop into caring, responsible adults. Research has shown that, in order to combat bullying and other anti-social behaviours effectively, it is best to start as early as possible in a child's life (Stanley, 2010)." Better Buddies Program.

This will be an ongoing initiative throughout 2021 as the Buddies build relationships and develop connections that will be treasured.



VISUAL ARTS FACULTY NEWS

2020 Visual Arts and Technology Exhibition – Final Week

A collection of creative, inspiring, and innovative work can be viewed online at the link below until this Sunday.

<https://www.kunstmatrix.com/en/marymede-catholic-college>

Over 160 artworks by over 120 artists and designers from Prep to Year 12 are on display in the two virtual 3D exhibitions.

You may visit both the P-6 and the Year 7-12 virtual exhibitions at any time between now and February 14.

We hope you enjoy exploring the gallery spaces.



Shared Stories Anthology

Congratulations to the students listed below for having their work published in the 2020 edition of Shared Stories: an annual collection of creative works by primary and secondary students from Catholic schools across Victoria.

- James Champlin
- Lauren Chan
- Erica Connell
- Noah Fotinos
- Arabella Green
- Leo Karakatsanis
- Stephanie Kurtzman
- Alessia Kyrifidis
- Veronica Leon-Vizcaino
- Deanna Marychurch
- Scarlett Mateos
- Boyan Poposki
- Courtney Spencer (School Award Recipient)
- Emily Thanasios
- Jessica Turner

These students demonstrated a strong commitment to developing their creative skills in the subjects of Media, Photography (Industry Practice), Studio Arts and Visual Arts last year, and their work in the anthology forms part of the permanent collection in the State Library of Victoria.



Photograph by Deanna Marychurch

Mr Jeremy Guzman
Head of Visual Arts (P-12)

MATHEMATICS FACULTY NEWS

Maths Help!

Come along to the Maths SOS and 40+ Club where dedicated Maths Staff run weekly tutorials to assist Year 7 – 12 Students with Maths.

These tutorials run from 3:30-4:30pm on Wednesdays in room 703.

As a bonus, regular attendees can receive 15 House Points per term! Come along to boost your maths skills or contact Mr Van Beek via email for further information – tony.vanbeek@marymede.vic.edu.au.

Mr Tony Van Beek
Secondary Mathematics Teacher

CAREERS

Are you thinking about careers in your future yet?

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with your students this year as their Careers Coordinator. I look forward to the opportunity to learn about their goals and work with them as they achieve them. I will be focusing on career counselling Year 12 students in Term 1 but would love to hear from any students at any year level.

If you would like to speak to me about anything career related, please send me an email at Patricia.Weinberg@marymede.vic.edu.au.

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

For Year 12 Students (and any community members looking to study further)

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is an admissions test used by the UCAT ANZ Consortium of universities in Australia and New Zealand for their medical, dental, and clinical science degree programs.

Students intending to apply for courses requiring the UCAT (such as Medicine, Dentistry and Clinical Science) will need to book a test. Bookings will open on 1 March 2021. The testing dates will be within the month of July 2021. Please use the link below to find out more, including the names of universities requiring the results from this test and materials to use to study for the test.

<https://www.ucat.edu.au/>

Patricia Weinberg
Careers Co-ordinator