



22 February 2022

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The school year is well underway, and it is fantastic to see students actively engaged in their learning. Throughout the course of the week, I spend time at morning drop off venues, afternoon farewell sites, in the yard at recess and lunchtime, taking replacement classes and visiting classes to help connect with the students, staff and parents. It has been great to hear students talk so positively about their start to the school year. Of course, everything isn't always perfect; however, we strive to respond to feedback, support students who confront challenges and help community members mend relationships when they are strained. Fortunately, positive events are the main thing taking place at the College and I share a number of these with you in this report.

I can report that our Prep students have settled into school life very well and are moving through their transition program very well. This week I witnessed classes engaged in so many different types of learning activities as well as one of our sporting teams participating in the Premier League Competition.

On Tuesday evening the College conducted the VCE Information Evening and today we have held the 2021 High Achiever's Assembly to recognise the outstanding achievements of 2021 Year 12 students. I would like to also wish good luck to our VCAL students who are participating in their Structured Workplace Learning Programs on Fridays. There are lots of fantastic learning moments taking place at the College each day and we give thanks for the opportunities offered to our students.

Catholic Identity

The College Catholic Identity Team has been established to bring together those who are leading in this area in 2022. An important element of the College's expression of its Catholic Identity is the invitation for students to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. Full details of this year's Sacramental Program are detailed further

on in this newsletter by Laetitia Malusu, Religious Education Coordinator P-6.

A number of families within the College community are suffering pain from the recent loss of loved ones. We pray for those families who are feeling this way at the moment:

Lord Jesus Christ,

We pray for those members of our community who are suffering the loss of loved ones.

We pray that your love is known to them even more at this difficult time.

We pray for the strength and compassion to reach out to those who need our support.

May those who are experiencing grief be led out of darkness into the light of your love.

We make this pray in Your name.

Amen

College Directions

Throughout 2022 I will, with the College Leadership Team, be facilitating a process where the school community co-constructs the establishment of the key directions for the College over the coming years. We will be inviting community members to contribute to the discernment and dialogue throughout this year. The main questions to be asked are:

- Who are our students and what is their context?
- What is our Mission and what are our values?
- What do we hope for our students?
- What are we already good at?
- What do our students need us to be focussed on to best facilitate student learning and growth?
- What needs to be distinctive about Marymede Catholic College?

Vacancies on the College Advisory Council

The Board of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) has responsibility for the strategic direction and oversight of the operation and management of MACS schools, including Marymede Catholic College. Clear lines of authority,

reporting and delegation from the MACS Board through the MACS Executive Director delegate the day to day operational management of Marymede Catholic College to its principal.

The School Advisory Council provides a crucial point of connection between the wider school community and school leaders. While the School Advisory Council does not have governance responsibility or decision-making authority, it supports the principal and school leadership and provides an important connection to the parish. The School Advisory Council provides a forum for discussion and discernment, where the parent/guardian voice and perspective are available to inform and support the decisions made by the principal.

The College Advisory Council meet 8 times a year normally on a weeknight at 7.00pm.

Two vacancies exist on the College Advisory Council and so I am inviting interested parents to send me a brief email to express interest in joining the Council. I am particularly looking for parents who live within the Parish of Christ the Light to help ensure we have parents from the different areas of our community. If you are interested, or even would just like to ask some questions about what is involved please email me via tim.newcomb@marymede.vic.edu.au.

Capital Development

The College has a number of capital development projects underway. I offer this update:

- It is anticipated that the Performing Arts building will be finished at the end of Term 1.
- The construction of the western road is in progress.
- The response to tenders for the General Purpose VCE Building is currently taking place.
- The planning permit for the Doreen Campus is advancing.
- It is hoped that the construction of the Early Learning Centre for the Doreen Campus will begin at the end of February.
- The detailed design process for the Junior A building for the Doreen Campus is progressing well.
- The design process for Stage 3 of the Doreen Campus (gym, Performing Arts classrooms and Food technology classrooms) is about to begin.
- The process for the development of the Masterplan for the South Morang Campus will begin shortly.

Student Free Days 2022

The College Calendar can be viewed on PAM for parents and also on the College website.

Please note the following dates which are student-free days:

- Friday 11 March: Staff Catholic Identity Accreditation Day
- Tuesday 26 April: Teacher Professional Learning Day (focus on assessment practices)
- Friday 24 June: Teacher Professional Learning Day (focus on student wellbeing)

- Friday 22 July: Staff Catholic Identity Accreditation Day
- Friday 16 September: Teacher Professional Learning Day (focus on assessment practices)
- Monday 31 October: Teacher Professional Practice Time

Doreen Campus

The project to plan for the implementation of the College's Doreen Campus is underway. Staff have been updated on matters and engaged in discussion regarding some of the key elements. A staff implementation team will be established shortly.

A range of elements need to be confirmed relating to areas such as:

- Enrolments
- Curriculum
- Leadership
- Staffing
- Extra-curricular activities
- College services

I am in contact with MACS regarding some of the enrolment matters. Parents will be regularly consulted regarding this project. Enrolments for ELC 2023 at the Doreen Campus and enrolments for Year 7 2024 at the Doreen Campus will open shortly.

College website

In the last newsletter I explained that the College will this year develop a new website. I can, however, confirm that a number of elements of our current website have already been updated.

Email communication with College leaders

All parents, guardians and carers were sent an email yesterday detailing a list of College leaders and their email addresses to assist with communication. Again, the first point of call for most student matters is the Core Teacher for primary students and the Pastoral Teacher for secondary students. Please see below for further discussion of email communication protocols.

COVIDsafe Plan

The College continues to review, update and implement its COVIDsafe Plan. We are working hard to try and provide as safe a place as possible as we facilitate the student learning program. If you have any ideas, questions or feedback in relation to COVID safety, please don't hesitate to make contact with the College.

Best wishes to all students with their learning for the next fortnight!

Mr Timothy Newcomb
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Photo Day: Monday 21 February

A reminder to current Marymede families that school photos are scheduled to take place during the school day on Monday 21 February 2022 with sibling photos taking place from 3.30 – 7.00pm. The College will use the services of National Photography who offer value packages and simplified ordering processes for our families. Students have been provided with personalised order forms including ordering and package details.

Families wishing to arrange sibling photos will need to book your sibling photo session via instructions emailed to families on 14 February and are available in the following brochure. Please note that Sibling Photo bookings will close by Friday 18 February.

Uniform expectations for all students are per the grooming standards in our Student Planner and as provided in the Principal's letter of 28 January, with all students expected to wear their full Summer Uniform (no P.E uniform allowed). Any student who is determined by College staff to not meet the uniform and grooming requirements will not have their photo taken on 21 February and will not be included in class photographs. A 'catch-up' day on Thursday 17 March will provide the opportunity for individual photos for students who are either absent or fail to meet the uniform and grooming requirements on 21 February. Year level photographs for Years 6, 7 & 12 will also occur on 17 March.



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.

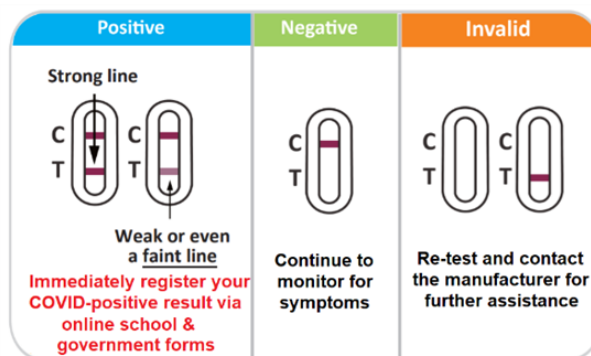
College policy is that staff will respond to communication within two school days: we ask parents to please be patient in awaiting timely response. In order to appropriately manage the workload of staff, the College policy also encourages staff to only access their emails between 7.00am and 7.00pm on 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.

COVID-Safe for 2022

As we continue to learn to live with COVID-19, the following measures are in place up to 25 February to ensure our College remains a safe environment for our students and staff:

- **Reporting positive COVID results:** Should any student receive a positive RAT or PCR result, a parent or guardian must report this result to the college via the Marymede Positive COVID Result Notification Form .
The College will notify the school community through a daily email when a student or staff member has returned a positive COVID-19 result and had attended the college. This email will identify any classes affected and advise students to undertake a RAT and only return to school if they receive a negative result and are asymptomatic. Classes will generally not be sent home during the school day. Remote learning will only be considered as a localised, short-term, last-resort option.

- **Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) 'surveillance' testing:** Each family has been supplied a 5-pack of RAT home-tests to be conducted on two school days each week across 14 – 25 February. These should be used on two school days in each week, regardless of whether or not your child shows any COVID symptoms or may have been in contact with a positive case.
If your child receives a positive RAT test result at any time, a parent or guardian must register this result through the Department of Health system via COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form or 1800 675 398 (please also see the previous point for informing the college).
There is no requirement to report a negative result. *N.B. Students who have previously tested positive for COVID-19, have completed their 7-day isolation period and are subsequently asymptomatic do not need to undertake RAT surveillance testing for 30 days (from their positive test or onset of symptoms, whichever is earlier).*



- **Students who are unwell must stay home:** The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms.

- **Face Masks & Physical distancing:** As per the directions of the Victorian Government, the following actions are mandatory:
 - o All staff, all adults and all students in Years 3 – 12 are required to wear a face mask indoors at all times
 - o Prep – Year 2 students are also strongly encouraged to wear a face mask when indoors.
 - o Parents and carers conducting drop-off and pick-up who are unable to maintain social distance should also wear a face covering
 - o Face masks to be worn by individuals over the age of 8 when on public transport and school buses – unless you have a lawful exemption.
 - o Individuals over the age of 8 must carry a face mask at all times.
- **Limited Parent entry to campus:** All parent & guardian access to the campus is restricted and all parent involvement with activities on-campus is restricted until at least 25 February. It is therefore very important for parents to clearly communicate with your child exactly where they should meet you for either vehicle or pedestrian pick-up. Pedestrian Gate 3 (near the bus stop) provides the clearest line of sight for younger primary students needing to locate a parent for pedestrian pick-up. Parents of Prep and Year 1 students have been directly emailed the instructions for their 'soft start' pick-up and drop-off procedures.
- **QR code registration & vaccination for on-campus entry:** Where parents and visitors are granted permission to enter the school property (apart from very brief outdoor pickup / drop-off) this is conditional on acceptable proof of being fully vaccinated after completing QR code registration. Please note that after 25 February, 'fully vaccinated' in schools requires a booster (3rd) vaccination dose.
- **Limited car-parking on-campus:** The Gate A car park will be open to enable Prep parents (only) to park for Prep drop-off and pick-up. All other parents will need to park off-site.
- **Vaccinations:** COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11 and about booster vaccinations for 16-17 year old students, please visit the Vaccination information for children and teenagers page on the [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website.

We thank all parents and carers and students for your patience, understanding and cooperation in assisting to keep our community safe.



Road Safety

A number of reminders about road safety and safe driver behaviour were mentioned in our last newsletter. Unfortunately, we have already had a number of complaints regarding unsafe driving, speeding, illegal parking and both parents and students failing to use the pedestrian crossings. We appreciate the frustration of slow-moving traffic and ask parents to please focus on the safety of our students, some of whom are too young to have fully developed road sense.

The City of Whittlesea has provided the following pamphlets on parking and safety around schools that we ask all community members read for the safety of all community members:

David Broadbent

Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Class of 2021 – High Achievers Assembly

Today we welcomed back some of our high achievers from the Class of 2021. It was fantastic to be able to thank and acknowledge our VCAL Student of the Year Sarah Mason, College Dux Grace Wake and students who were Subject Dux, achieved a study score of 40 or more, or an ATAR above 90. 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. I look forward to the ongoing commitment and dedication of our class of 2022 as they work towards achieving great success and fulfilling their learning potential.

VCE Parent Information Evening

Thank you to the parents that were able to join us online earlier this week for our information session. This evening gave us the opportunity to share information regarding the rules around the VCE, important upcoming dates and careers information, as well as advice and tips on how to succeed in the VCE presented by staff. If you were unable to attend, I would ask that you please familiarise yourself with the procedures outlined in our VCE Handbook and support the College in the implementation of these processes should the need arise. This handbook has been emailed to parents and can also be found

on the Parent Access Module (PAM) under knowledge banks. A recording of the evening will also be emailed to parents. Should you have any questions regarding processes, or your child's progress, please contact the College.

P-6 Start-Up Interviews

At Marymede, we strongly value our partnership with parents and encourage clear, frequent and respectful communication. Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are a key part of the on-going school-home relationship at the College and we are committed to facilitating these very important conversations. Our Start-Up interviews provide parents an opportunity to meet their child's teacher, for you to share information about your child and discuss the best ways that we can support your child as they move forward in their learning. We do ask that where possible your child participates in the conversation. Students in Year 3 to 6 have worked on creating their own personal goal and the Start-Up interview is an opportunity for them to share their goal with you too.

The Start-Up interviews will take place for students in Prep to Year 6 on:

- Thursday, 24 February from 4.00pm to 8.00pm
- Tuesday, 1 March from 4.00pm to 8.00pm

Bookings are now open to parents via PAM .

Jessica Hall

Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Link to our Catholic Identity

A strong and visible part of the Catholic Identity of Marymede Catholic College is the opportunity for our students to participate in the Sacramental life of the Church. This is because Jesus Christ is the Sacrament of God in the world, revealing 'God with us' in everything he says and does. The Sacraments are an embodiment of his own life and witness and nourish our own faith journeys as we grow both physically and spiritually. Thus, the Catholic Identity Team is excited to share news about the Sacramental Program for 2022.

At the College we support our students to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation throughout the year. During this time, parents, teachers and students all embark on a journey to explore the mysteries of each of the Sacraments. Parents are encouraged to not only have regular discussions with their child as they prepare, but to also attend the Family Workshop Night where they revisit the purpose and importance of the Sacraments. Teachers will engage the candidates in catechism classes as part of the process, with the rest of the College community supporting in various ways, up to and including the actual celebrations.

We encourage all families to consider our College theme this year:

'In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you'
(Matt 7:12).

How can we encourage an understanding of this Golden Rule as we prepare to receive the Sacraments with an aim of getting closer to God? How do the Sacraments empower us to re-discover that we are all 'Known and Loved' and thus promote 'Dignity for All'?

Sacrament Dates and Times

For planning purposes, please find below the relevant dates for the Sacraments. Other events related to the Sacraments that include Family Workshop Nights, Reflection and Rehearsal dates will be communicated to families through the Operoo for each Sacrament.

Sacrament of First Eucharist (Year 4):

Saturday 4 June:	Session 1 – 11.00am Session 2 – 2.00pm
Sunday 5 June:	Session 1 – 2.00pm

Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 6):

Saturday 10 September:	Session 1 – 1.00pm
Sunday 11 September:	Session 1 – 1.00pm Session 2 – 3.00pm

Sacrament of First Reconciliation (Year 3):

Wednesday 9 November:	9.00am to 3.00pm
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Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions:
Laetitia.malusu@marymede.vic.edu.au

Laetitia Malusu

Religious Education Leader, Prep - Year 6

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)

An important feature of Respectful Relationships in schools is the development of a student Code of Conduct that is inclusive of student voice.

The implementation of a whole school, evidence-based framework known as Positive Behaviour for Learning is the recommended approach in Respectful Relationships schools.

Marymede Catholic College commenced its journey to implement Positive Behaviour for Learning school-wide at the end of 2020, with the support of Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools.

About Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)

PB4L is an organisational framework for supporting positive behaviour. It draws together effective, research-validated practices founded in the science of human behaviour. This scientific knowledge about behaviour is arranged into a framework which has a focus on systems, data and practices. The framework provides schools with procedures and practices to guide successful implementation of PB4L within the school environment.

The PB4L approach calls on schools to “teach” expected behaviours and lead students towards embodying a set of agreed values in their actions. Data is used to assess the progress of the student body in both learning the behaviours and living out the community derived values.

The framework is tiered and is based on preventative approaches together with early intervention to avoid escalation in behaviour and allow schools to cater to the needs of all students.

PB4L has been facilitated by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools over a number of years with many schools being trained. Marymede Catholic College is currently engaged with primary and secondary specialist coaches for training, implementation and ongoing support.

PB4L School Values

Through a consultative process in 2021, the Marymede Catholic College community including students, families and all members of teaching and non-teaching staff were invited to participate in developing a set of core values that underpin the PB4L framework in our school.

We were very grateful in 2021 to have so many members of our parent and guardian community respond to our survey and participate enthusiastically in our quest to discern the values most important to our community.

Marymede’s Values are:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Responsibility
- Safety

These values form the basis for expected behaviours within the College that are communicated via a Behaviour Expectation Matrix.

The values and expected behaviours apply to all members of our community including students, parents and other family members and guardians/caregivers, visitors, teaching and non-teaching staff.

If you would like to learn more about PB4L please access the following link: <https://behaviour.education.qld.gov.au/supporting-student-behaviour/positive-behaviour-for-learning>

Directors of Students:

Years Prep - 3, Narelle Collins

Years 4 - 6, Lisa Murray

Years 7 - 9, Jack Mather

Years 10 - 12, David Brick

PRIMARY WELLBEING

Online Gaming

Online games can be great fun for your child, but make sure you can help them manage the risks. Many games can improve your child’s coordination, problem-solving and multi-tasking skills, as well as help build social skills through online interactivity with other players. But it is also important to

understand what might go wrong and could have a negative impact on your child (e-Safety Commissioner)

It has been brought to our attention that some of our younger students are playing an online game called ‘Poppy Playtime’. We have some concerns with young students playing this game as they are acting it out at school and also bringing related toys to play with. Due to the violent nature and horror themes in this game, this is not appropriate at school.

Common Sense Media is the leading source of entertainment and technology recommendations for families. Please see below for more information regarding this particular game and age recommendations.

What parents need to know?

Parents need to know that **Poppy Playtime** is a downloadable episodic horror adventure game available for Windows based PCs. Players explore a seemingly abandoned toy factory, solving puzzles along the way, as they uncover the fate of the factory’s staff and also attempt to survive the experience. While there’s no graphic violence or gore, there are splatters of blood throughout the factory. Also, the horror nature of the game will likely be too scary for younger audiences. Common Sense media recommends this game for 12 years and older (Common Sense Media)

Please visit these websites for more useful information:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/big-issues/gaming>

<https://www.common sense media.org/>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/play-media-technology>

<https://www.common sense media.org/game-reviews/poppy-playtime>

Carly O’Neal-Shipley
P-6 Wellbeing Co- Ordinator

CO-CURRICULUM

Sign Up to Co-Curricular Activities

We are looking forward to starting our co-curricular program in 2022! Please refer to handbook for an outline of all activities currently offered at Marymede. Students are invited to sign-up using the form [HERE](#) and you will be contacted once the program begins.

Please note that not all activities run for the whole year. If you have any questions please contact Ms Wason.

<https://forms.office.com/r/gGShwz8fCu>

Ms Melanie Wason
Co-Curricular Assistant



"Changing the pattern of your life through learning and community connection"

Maths homework club



TUESDAYS FROM MARCH 1ST, 2022

4.15PM—5.30PM

Join Glenda our favourite volunteer school teacher each week and get the extra help you need with your maths homework. Suitable for students from Grade 3—Year 9

Bring a snack

Please call for initial registration 9716 3361

Whittlesea Community House—92A Church St, Whittlesea

IT'S FREE!

Phone 9716 3361 • www.wchi.com.au • 92a Church Street, Whittlesea, Victoria, 3757