

Marian College

A Kildare Education Ministries School in the Brigidine tradition

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Issue 2

6th February, 2023

Principal: Mrs. Carmel Barker



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From the Head of Learning & Teaching



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Students of Marian College,

- ❖ *We encourage excellence and perseverance in learning,*
- ❖ *We strive for continuous improvement*

St Brigid Mary of Ireland

Ask for us all today

The courage to do God's bidding

Whatever the world may say.

The Grace to be strong and valiant

The Grace to be firm and true

The Grace to be faithful always

To God, His Mother and You.

Amen

Last Wednesday we had the opportunity to celebrate St Brigid's day. Sister John had previously spent the weekend with her fellow Sisters' celebrating in Melbourne. I thought I would take this newsletter editorial opportunity to re-visit our school prayer to St Brigid. In particular its relevance this year as we reflect on the Kildare value of Courage. 'The Courage to do God's bidding, whatever the world may say.' A difficult task indeed. To do God's bidding whatever the world may say. I challenge us all to reflect on this and when the opportunity arises, have the courage to do God's bidding.

Schools like all businesses are busy places. The start to this year has been no different. The delight so far has

been the ability to start together 'as normal'. To engage in retreats and camps, swimming and athletics, as well as classroom activities. Not the 'new normal', just normal.

Start to 2023

Last year saw the school for the first time begin with early start for all students in all year levels. This was a wonderful opportunity to 'iron out' any kinks and settle into the new school year. Feedback from students was positive and has led to a very smooth start to term one 2023.

Year 12 Retreat

I had the pleasure to participate in the Year 12 Retreat last week. It was a wonderful opportunity not only for the students but also the staff to begin the school year in the beautiful setting of Cave Hill Creek at the base of Mt Cole. The students took every opportunity that was on offer and were fantastic to be with. Thank you to all the staff who attended with the group and well as those back at school covering classes.

Year 7 Transition Week and Camp

Our Year 7's began their first 'classes' on Friday last week after participating in some transition days. This week will see them all go out on camp.

Thank you to Mrs North and all the staff involved in transition and to those going out for up to 5 days this week.

There is a lot going on as we move through term one. I encourage all students to have the courage to grab all opportunities on offer both within and outside the classroom.

Learning is a privilege that not everyone has the opportunity to receive. Let us all together grab this opportunity with both hands.

Mr Matthew Summers
Head of Learning and Teaching



We have a supply of surplus Rapid Antigen Tests available for distribution to families.

If you require some tests please contact the office on 5352 3861 and we will send a box home with your child OR call into the Office and collect



YEAR 12 RETREAT

I always enjoy getting to start the school year off by leading the Year 12s' Retreat at Cave Hill Creek. It's a fantastic opportunity for the students to reflect on the challenges ahead and to bond together in a fun and relaxed environment. Our theme for the year is "Courage - speaking and acting with integrity" and with this in mind I opened the retreat with a scripture reading, Luke 4: 16-22, 28-30, where Jesus is just about to begin his ministry yet he is rejected by the people of his hometown. We reflected on the courage that it took Jesus to stand out from the crowd, from his friends and the people he had grown up with, to announce himself and begin his ministry of sharing God's kingdom with us all. At the end of the reflection I played the song "A Lucky Life" by Clare Bowditch (who also happened to be our guest speaker for day 1) with a focus on the lines:

"I'll help you build your armour
But you'll have to wear it for yourself".

Which speaks to me about what the core business of a school is. The staff, your friends, your family will help to develop and build your skills, knowledge,

confidence, resilience and allow you the opportunity to reflect upon your spirituality but it is up to the students to have the courage to put it all into action.

Between the 3 activity rotations of the day (a selection of canoeing, giant's ladder, raft building, bushwalking and affirmations) our guest speaker for the day, Clare Bowditch, shared with us her journey of "Taming her Inner Critic" and provided strategies to help the students to overcome that niggling voice in your head that holds you back. Though Clare has a plethora of accolades, that is merely the end product of overcoming that loud voice of her own "inner critic" which she still battles with today.

To finish Day 1, after tea David Nicholson and Mr Otto put on a performance that got the students up singing and dancing along and generally having the opportunity to finish the day with a smile on their faces and laughter in their hearts.

Day 2 was led by our second guest speaker of the retreat, Sam Clear. Sam is renowned for walking 15,600 kms from the most eastern point of South America

to the most western point of mainland Europe praying for unity. Sam led three sessions, each with a different focus of the journey and every student was able to learn and reflect upon their own life journeys. Many students came up to Sam at the end of the day, not only to thank him for his presentation, but also to share some of their stories with him too. During our RE lessons over the next couple of weeks we will continue to reflect upon Sam's journey and what it may mean for us in the year ahead.



There were many highlights on the third and final day. After their final activity rotation the students received the affirmations that they had written for one another as well as the letters that their loved ones from home had written for them. This is always a special time for the Year 12s and can sometimes be quite overwhelming for them. We ensure that they all have their space and are given time to digest what they have read.



To conclude the retreat Fr Andrew celebrated a liturgy with the group, urging them to be strong and to take others along with them as they strive to make the world a better place...



"You are the light of the world and no one lights a lamp to put it under a bushel basket, it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5: 14-16)

At the end of the liturgy Fr Andrew blessed the Year 12 jumpers and then it was down to the lake for the traditional photo.

I wish the Year 12s all the best for their year ahead and I pray that God will be with them through all of their struggles and successes throughout the year and beyond.



Stephen East

YEAR 12 RETREAT



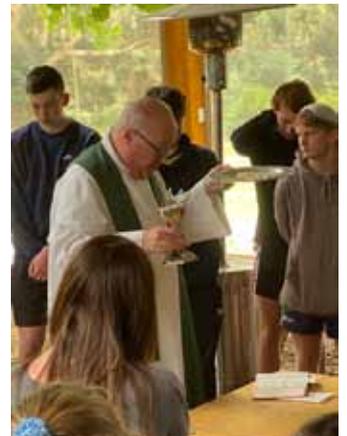
YEAR 12 RETREAT



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During Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year, we will have a lot of decorations with the colour red which means happiness and good luck.

In Marian College Ararat Chinese classes, we will make Red Envelopes or taste the symbol of good luck Chinese new year lollies. We also made dumplings in year 9 Chinese selective classes which is one of the festival food eating during Chinese New Year.

The Spring Festival or Lunar New Year or Chinese New Year, which are the same thing in different names. This year is called the Year of Rabbit, started on 22 Jan and will end on this Sunday 5 Feb 2023, which is called the Lantern Festival.

Ms Guan



YEAR 7 MEET TA AND PARENT IPAD INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 6.30 PM

Parents of new students are invited to attend an Information Evening to be held on Tuesday 14th February at 6.30pm in the Brigidine Centre. The evening is an important event providing new parents the opportunity to discuss:-

- ◇ Responsibilities in relation to the school provided device; and
- ◇ Accessing the Parent Access Module.

You will meet your child's TA teacher, who will demonstrate how to access the Parent Access Module - an informative online portal that you use to access vital information on your child's progress and assessment.

This evening is a vital initial step in opening up clear communication lines between you and your child's TA teacher, remembering that the TA teacher is the person you need to initially contact with any concerns you have in relation to your child.

The evening is for parents only. Supper will be provided. It is anticipated the evening will conclude by 8.00pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

PARENT ACCESS MODULE UPGRADE

Parents were sent emails with instructions to reset their password following the recent PAM upgrade.

If you did not receive an email please contact the school office. Please note that the email may be in your Spam or Junk Folder!

Once you have reset your login information please complete the following fields:-

VERIFY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (There will be a message in red at the top of your screen)

CONNECT - photo consent request

MEDICAL PROFILE



**TO ACCESS
EACH CHILD'S
MENU ITEMS
CLICK ON
THEIR PHOTO**



Once this process has been completed you will need to log into the SIMON Everywhere App (available free from the App Store and Google Play) using your new log in information.



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

BARRON KELLY SYNNOTT CLANCY

The Marian College Swimming Carnival is approaching. All students have the opportunity to choose events to enter. The aim of the carnival is for everyone to participate and enjoy themselves, and get into the spirit of their team. The keener swimmers also have the opportunity to progress to compete in the Black Ranges Swimming Championships.

- What: Marian College Inter-House Swimming Carnival
- Date: Friday 17th February 2023
- Venue: Ararat Outdoor Pool
- Time: Students to meet at the pool at 8.50am.
Dismissal 3.15 pm
- Clothing: Dress in house colours or PE uniform.
- Food: BYO lunch and drinks.
Food/drinks available for purchase from the Gardens Cafe.
- Buses: Arrangements have been made with the Stawell and Ararat bus companies to drop off and pick up students directly to and from the Pool.
- Must bring: Hat, sunscreen, lunch, drink, suitable swimwear, towel, warm clothes to wear between swims, all medications required including EpiPens, Asthma inhalers etc.

This is a compulsory school day.

APP TO ASSIST WITH THE PARENT ACCESS MODULE

Install Simon Everywhere on your phone to receive notifications

Simon Everywhere is now available on App Store and Google Play.

Your school has joined the growing Simon Everywhere community. By installing the Simon Everywhere app, you will be able to receive push notifications direct to your phone. Plus you will have easy access to all of the great PAM features, such as Assessments, Reports, Activity Permissions and more.

- Search "Simon Everywhere" on App Store or Google Play and install the app
- Launch Simon Everywhere and register with your name and mobile number
- Click Add School and locate your school from the list
- Enter your existing PAM credentials



Reporting an absence.



Please contact the Marian College Office to advise of your child's absence. If the office has not been notified, we will contact the family via SMS.

Please phone: 5352 3861 or send an email to: tmason@mcararat.catholic.edu.au



Marian College is a "SunSmart School".

The wearing of hats is compulsory during Terms 1 and 4.

Replacement hats can be purchased at the Office for \$10.00.





Eureka Mums

Pop Up

DONATION DROP-OFF

Alexandra Oval
Community Centre
Waratah Avenue, Ararat

Friday, 10th Feb
9am to 4pm



DONNATIONS ACCEPTED

- Cots / Bassinets
- Prams
- Car seat / Capsules
- Clothing from birth to size 16
- Socks / Shoes
- Books & toys (no batteries)
- Highchairs & Feeding Equipment
- Playmats
- Safety Equipment
- Linen

See www.stkildamums.org for a comprehensive list of suitable donations.



JOIN THE FUN!

**Horsham & Surrounds - T1
All Girls Auskick Centre**

Horsham City Oval

Wednesdays - March 1st - March 29th

4:30pm-5:30pm



**Register via the link below or
the QR code**

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/33da34>

For further details:

jaye.macumber@afl.com.au



ARARAT EAGLES JUNIOR NETBALL TRAINING

Wednesday 8th February
4:30 - 5:30pm

13 & Under, 15 & Under and 17 & Under
players welcome

Alexandra Oval Netball Courts

For more information contact:

Aimee Harrison 0439385965 or Lisa Haddow 0407369026

Year 7 & 10 Immunisations



Immunisation Consent
cards will be sent home with
Year 7 and Year 10 students
this week

February 2023

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 SENIOR & INTERMEDIATE TENNIS | 10 |
| YEAR 7 CAMP (Group 1) | | | YEAR 7 CAMP (Group 2) | |
| 13 | 14 INTERMEDIATE CRICKET YEAR 7 MEET TA & CYBER SAFETY PARENT PRESENTATION | 15 | 16 | 17 SWIMMING CARNIVAL |
| 20 | 21 | 22 ASH WEDNESDAY SCHOOL PHOTOS | 23 YEAR 7 & 10 IMMUNISATIONS | 24 |
| 27 BLACK RANGES SWIMMING | 28 | 1 MARCH | 2 | 3 YEAR 11 & 12 ART EXCURSION |