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Number 18

16th November, 2016

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

The Jubilee of Mercy began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on 8 December 2015 (the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council) and concludes when he closes that same door on the 20th November 2016. As Holy doors close in churches and basilicas around the world, including in Rome, it is estimated that over 20 million people participated in the Church's Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican – and a billion people have participated in churches worldwide.

For us here in the Diocese of Parramatta, the Way of Mercy has been one visible sign of the Jubilee of Mercy, a year where we learned "once again" that the fate of the world is not in the hands of men, "but in the mercy of God." The opportunity for all of our schools and parishes to venerate the Cross and Icons brought a sense of connectedness to our wider community of faith

The Cross has been accompanied by a Relic of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and a Relic of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. The Cross and Relics have been hosted at various locations by local parish communities, with celebrations that have included procession, prayer, veneration, music, testimonial and a sending forth. Here at St Patrick's Marist, we were engaged in this very special experience last Wednesday. Pope Francis has told us "The Mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality" and as part of our celebration, our students shared some of their own lived expressions of Mercy in 2016. Here at St Patrick's Marist, each member of our community venerated the Cross and relics. I was very moved by the experience and incredibly proud of our students.

On the 4th November some of our staff attended the Australian Marist Schools "Outstanding Contribution to Marist Education" Dinner. We were very proud to nominate Eunice Dumas, one of our Specialist Teachers who retired earlier this year and Mr Michael Wondracz our Teacher Librarian. I have included part of their citations for you. On behalf of the College community I thank them for their many years of dedication to our students.

Eunice Dumas: Eunice has been part of the Marist family since 1994, dedicating her professional life to students with diverse learning needs. Her work is deeply modelled by our Marist values.

Eunice is a passionate crusader for the forgotten, disadvantaged or ignored, especially her students whom she adopts and embraces like a mother. Her devotion in supporting each student through one on one support, before and after school and during lunch times, embodies a love of work and provides a presence of care and openness to all in need. Eunice is a worthy recipient of this award.

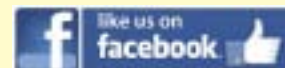
Michael Wondracz: As a young teacher Michael read a phrase that changed his life: "Students are images of God". This became a cornerstone for the way he related to students, evident in his interactions as an REC, Literacy Leader and Teacher Librarian. Michael understands the needs of our most vulnerable and has created a safe space for them to come each day.

Michael is a quiet achiever. His valued presence, love of work, deep faith and living a life that radiates the Gospel values is a true example of the spirit of Marcellin Champagnat. Michael is a worthy recipient of this award.

..... / Continued Over

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On Facebook this week: Video highlights from the India Immersion experience.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Patricks-Marist-College-1549337335358979/>

KEY DATES

Monday, 21st November
College Leaders Reflection Day

Tuesday, 22nd November
Creative Arts Exhibition
Opening Night (Years 7-11)

Wednesday, 23rd November
P&F Meeting (7.30pm)

Wednesday 30th November
Year 11 Careers Conference

Friday, 2nd December
Year 10 Formation Day

Monday, 5th December
Marist Student Leaders Retreat
Year 10 'All My Own Work'

Tuesday, 6th December
Careers Conference
(Concludes Wednesday 7th)

Tuesday, 13th December
Semester 2 Awards Evening
(The Kings School)



This week we celebrated Remembrance Day a very important day in our calendar each year. The 11th November marked the 96th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18), where our Nation's identity was forged. As in past years, our College observed one minute of silence at 11.00am in a ceremony led by Mrs Whelan, in honor of the extraordinary sacrifice of more than 102 000 Australians who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. Lest We Forget.

Over the last couple of weeks we have been focussed on improving the wearing of our uniforms. I would like to take this opportunity to thank families for your support. I have seen a marked improvement. We regularly find ourselves needing to have conversations about haircuts. Once hair has been cut, it is not always easily remedied. As a general rule of thumb, there should be no undercuts, all hair for boys should be graded or blended. Girls are reminded that all hair must be worn up and should be of natural colour.

There have been some changes to staffing for the remainder of the year. Both Mr Waddell and Mrs Pett will be on leave. I thank the following staff for stepping up into these roles and I am very confident they will serve the community well.

Acting Assistant Principal - Pastoral and Administration

Mr Simon Belcher

Pastoral Leader of Learning - Year 10

Mr Jared Hornby

Leader of Learning - English

Ms Emily Gray

Assistant Leader of Learning - English

Mrs Andrea Harney

A reminder to parents, that if you know your child is leaving the College at the end of the year, it is a legal requirement to advise the College office in writing, including details of where the student will be moving on to next year and any new contact details.

Yours in Jesus, Mary and St. Marcellin

Mrs Angela Hay
Principal

UNIFORMS AND LOST PROPERTY

A reminder to parents and students that there is a wide selection of second-hand uniforms available for sale from the Uniform room. There is also a large amount of 'lost property' to be claimed.

Director of Mission

MERCY CROSS CEREMONY



Speech by Annabelle Bennett following the India Immersion Video

"Just over a month ago, myself and 13 other students accompanied by three teachers, embarked on our journey to Trichy, for a unique experience. This immersion was no holiday. It was full of long hours and days that seemed to never end. However, each and every single day was rewarding due to the connections we were able to create, the empowering mark each individual person left, such as Brother Gerald and Brother Albert who gave up their homes, which included their beds, to ensure we were more than comfortable.

Further, we were fortunate to be able to visit four different Marist schools and were blessed with the opportunity to meet such amazing and welcoming teachers and children of varying of ages. The children just wanted to have a conversation with you and they were very interested in our lives, just as we wanted to know all about theirs.

The Nursery school at Trichy that we, as a College community, have been raising money for through the walkathon, has blossomed into a place for children aged between 3-6 to attend and get an education, which previously some of them would never have been able to have. Following the Nursery school, we visited two different high schools allowing us to communicate and relate to kids our own age.

This is when we were confronted with the concept that these students had no option in the subjects they are able to undertake, as we are privileged to get. However, to these children they were just fortunate to be getting an education, which many of us take for granted.

Throughout the entire trip we witnessed first hand the importance of faith, culture and family. They were extremely proud of each one of these three things. This immersion opened our eyes and widened our understanding of mercy and faith through the challenges we faced and overcame as a group together, whether it was the beggars, the heat, the language barrier or the TV in a hut.

You may be wondering how our immersion has any reference to today's ceremony celebrating the Year of Mercy, however, the motto of this year delivered by the Pope is "Merciful like the Father." This an invitation to follow the merciful example of God



by offering love to others. This year is devoted to focusing on helping others in need, such as the untouchables in India. As a school community, we have contributed to by raising money to help ensure that the children in Trichy have the chance to an education just as we have.

The Nursery school has children coming to it from over 20 different villages, before this, like many children we made connection with, were unable to get an education due to no schools in their area or due to their families lack of money. To put it into perspective, for one child to go to school for an entire year it cost \$50, yet some are still unable to afford this. As a group, we were able to interact with these children known as the untouchables, thanks to the Marist Brothers program called Operation Rainbow. This program gives the children who can not attend school, or only do so once a week, get an opportunity to catch up on any work to ensure they do not fall behind. These types of acts are the true definition of acting in a merciful spirit to assist in benefiting and helping those in the wider community"

Mr M. Paton
Director of Mission

Pastoral

YEAR 7

Congratulations....

Charlotte McCaughan (7 Chavoin) who will be competing at Bathurst in an Under 14s State Championship Waterpolo Tournament in December. We wish Charlotte the best of luck!

Lia Ceccato (7 MacKillop) competed in an Indoor Hockey State Championship in the Central Coast earlier this month. Lia's team placed 3rd in Division 1 out of 40 teams. Well done Lia!

Miss C. Mollace
Pastoral Leader of Learning

YEAR 8



GEENA LEE

Geena Lee in 8 Ludovic was nominated for the 2016 Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement – Community Languages Schools. Congratulations Geena as she was successful with this nomination and was awarded the Highly Commended for Excellence in Student Achievement – Community Languages Schools for the study in Korean. Geena received her award on Wednesday 2 November at a special ceremony at the University of New South Wales, Kensington. Well done Geena.

Mrs A. Papoulas
Pastoral Leader of Learning

YEAR 9

It has been an eventful few weeks for the Year 9 cohort. We have just returned from camp and what a success it was. Students travelled to the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Tea Gardens in two groups over the course of Week 3 of this term.

Students were challenged to push their boundaries on a daily basis while on this camp and experienced varied activities such as; Abseiling, High Ropes Courses, Mud Challenges, Team Challenges, Outdoor Cookouts and Archery just to name a few. It was a wonderful experience for all and it was especially great to see all students co-operating with each other and helping each other succeed.

Another important milestone that the Year 9 group crossed last week was in the development of the Year 9 student norms. Students worked together in a half day workshop the week before the camp and came up with a list of expectations that THEY have of their own student group. These standards of behaviour were well thought out and maturely collated by the group and I would like to congratulate them on setting the standards of the cohort so high.

Mr D. Berner
Pastoral Leader of Learning



Year 9, 2016 Agreed "Student Norms"

The following is a list of agreed student behaviours written by the Year 9 2016.

1. We will encourage each other to succeed.
2. We will promote equality and fairness amongst each other.
3. We will accept all members of our year group, both in the classroom and socially.
4. We say no to bullying in any form. Examples:
 - a) Spreading Rumours
 - b) Online bullying
 - c) Physical Bullying
 - d) Exclusion
 - e) Name calling
 - f) We will not stand by and watch while others are bullied.
5. Honesty is the key to gaining trust. We will earn respect by being honest.
6. We will be positive in our interactions with each other.
7. We will show and earn respect amongst our peers, teachers and the community.
8. We will admit when we have made a mistake and take responsibility for our actions.
9. We accept failure is part of learning and will move on towards success.
10. We will put energy in to our work and show a love of work consistent with Marist values.
11. We will not touch other people's belongings without permission.
12. We will be inclusive. It is not ok for members of our year group to be left out.
13. We will not distract others from their learning.
14. We will respect and protect school facilities.
15. We will treat others the way we want to be treated.
16. We will strive to make a positive difference to the school.
17. We will put effort in to group work and support our team members.
18. We will not use abusive or offensive language at school.
19. We will keep our hands to ourselves. Play fighting is not an excuse.
20. We will meet our work obligations. Examples:
 - a) Homework
 - b) Assessments

Careers

YEAR 10 CAREERS CONFERENCE

Volunteers Needed

St Patrick's Marist College is holding the Year 10 Careers Conference on Wednesday, 7th December and we are requesting assistance from industry and business personnel to perform mock interviews with the students. In previous years, we have had a wonderful response from our interviewers and we would once again appreciate your help.

The interviews will be held in various locations around the college. It would be appreciated if you could arrive at the front office at 9:15am. Traffic congestion can be a problem at this time so please be conscious of this. There will be students who will assist you to find your way to the front office.

The interviews will involve acting as a Human Resources Manager for "Barangaroo" who are seeking to employ junior staff.

At the conclusion of the interviews, you will meet in BG01 where you will be provided with a light thank you lunch.

We, at the College, are extremely grateful for your assistance in being involved in our Careers Conference and are confident you will be impressed by the high quality of our students. If you know of any individuals that may be able to assist or if you require further information, please contact Rebecca Lawrence at the College on (02) 9638 5644.

Ms R. Lawrence
Careers Co-ordinator



Curriculum

ENGLISH

English Extension 2 Study Day

On Friday, 28th October, Christie Cheung, Dominic Gibson and Bill Johnson from Year 11, have chosen to undertake the English Extension 2 course for the 2017 Higher School Certificate. The highly competitive major work can be produced in the form of a sustained composition can include, short story, critical response, poetry, a speech, a script, film, and performance poetry. It is a challenging course, but one which can be very rewarding for students. It offers creative freedom unmatched by any other course, in any other year of schooling.

The Word Express course run by the State Library of N.S.W. consisted of a combination of lectures and small group workshops. The highly acclaimed poet, critic and editor Dr Felicity Plunkett and the highly accomplished lead English teacher Catriona Arcamone together with ex-students whose success in the course has been showcased in the word eXpress Young Writers Showcase 15, delivered a rich, diverse and thorough review of the course.

We were privileged to attend this fabulous day, meet other students and teachers undertaking and facilitating the course and were absolutely entranced and enthused with the Library's spaces, lectures and workshops provided on the day.



ETA Information Day



On Friday, 11th November, 2016, the English Teachers Association held an Information Day for Extension 2 students at the Footbridge Theatre, Sydney University. Danielle Cheung, Dominic Gibson, and Bill Johnson not only enjoyed the day, but were also overwhelmed with the invaluable knowledge and skills acquired through the expert presenters. This event was aimed at providing a foundation for Extension 2 students who started the course in Term 4.

Currently, the students are making decisions about their major work; their form, subject-matter and concept whilst implementing a rigorous study plan involving targeted research over the summer holidays. Students will need to tap into their intuitive creativity in the coming months. We wish Danielle, Dom and Bill the best of luck in their preparation of their Major Work.

Ms Graham
English Extension 2 Facilitator



PERFORMING ARTS

'Battle of the Bands' - Years 7 and 8

The Music centre is an extremely busy place this term! Year 7 and 8 Music students have been enthusiastically preparing for 'Battle of the Bands' in class and busy rehearsing before school, at recess and lunch times as well.

The first heat of the 'Battle of the Bands' competition is for students to perform in class as members of a band. They chose an instrument to perform on and have collaborated and worked together to be able to create their own version of a rock song.

The Finals this year are going to be held on Wednesday 30th November at 1.45pm in the La Valla Hall (families are welcome). For the Finals, all Year 7 and 8 students will see 10 bands compete for the title of best band and the honour of having their names engraved on a fantastic electric guitar plaque that hangs in the Music Centre. In 2015, this honour went to the band The Weekdays (Rebekah Meafou, Jacob Wahbe, Emma Gallagher, Anastasia Vujinovic).

There are exciting prizes to be won for the 2016 'Battle of the Bands' finalists, including itunes vouchers, movie tickets and music packs.

Who will the winners be this year???



Ms Trudy Andrews
Leader of Learning – Performing Arts






OUT OF THIS WORLD!



Inspired by our Year 12 students, our theme for this year was "Out of this world" as we became "St Pats MARS College" for the event. Our aim was to continue to financially support the Marist school in Trichy, India as well as provide additional equipment for the new Cola being constructed in the Senior Yard.

Due to our significant support, the Marist school in Trichy has grown from an enrolment of 60 students to 400 ... and increasing.

Our goal this year was to reach for the stars at \$40,000 and we would like to acknowledge our generous sponsors for their help in our efforts to raise these funds. The Marist Brothers of Trichy are extremely appreciative of our support and we look forward to making the Senior Yard Cola a very impressive addition to the College.



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The College would like to thank our generous business sponsors and their families for their support of our College Walkathon:

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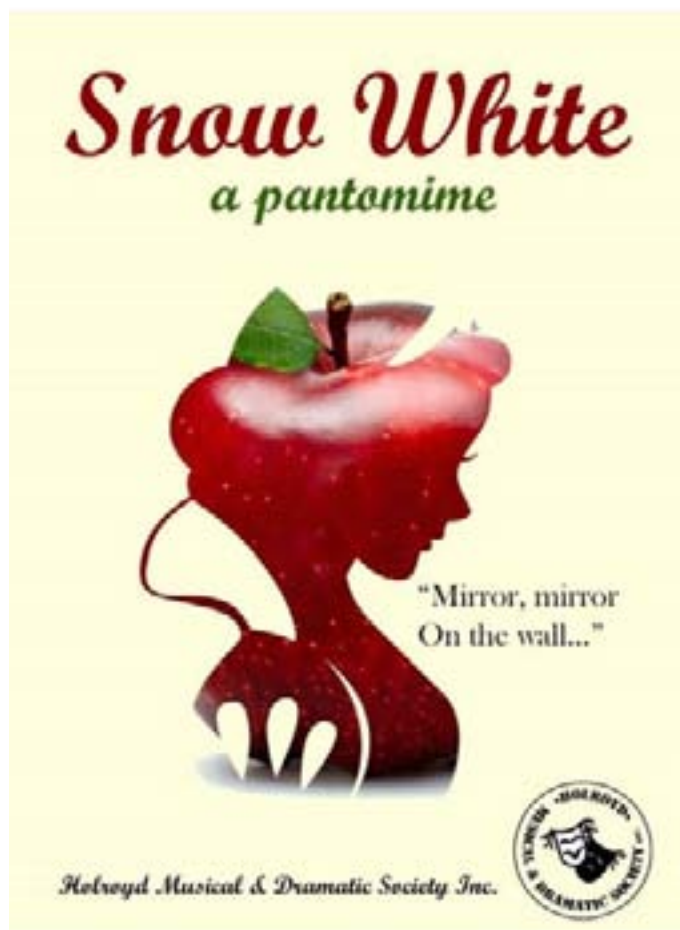
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UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY

Gravity (and Wonder): At Penrith Observatory

November 19 - 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Have you ever wondered about gravity? What is this invisible force that stops us from flying off into space as our planet rotates? How does the Moon stay in orbit around Earth? Why is the gravity of a black hole so strong? Join us for answers to these questions and more in our special Gravity (and Wonder) event in association with the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest. Evening includes presentation, 3D movie, tour of the dome and 0.6m telescope and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

Bookings are essential: http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whats_on



Play Netball in 2017



Ermington United Netball

will be holding

Registration Day

for the 2017 season

on

Saturday 12th November 2016

Cowells Lane Tennis Centre (upstairs)

Cowells Lane Ermington

12.30 - 2.30pm

New players of all ages welcome

Under 7 - 10 years NetSetGo modified netball

Under 11 - Seniors graded competition

Returning players can attend and register online,

or register from home from 25th October @ www.MyNetball.com.au

Further Information:

President, Michelle Gruber 0404 981 467

umpires@ermingtonunited.com.au or netball@ermingtonunited.com.au



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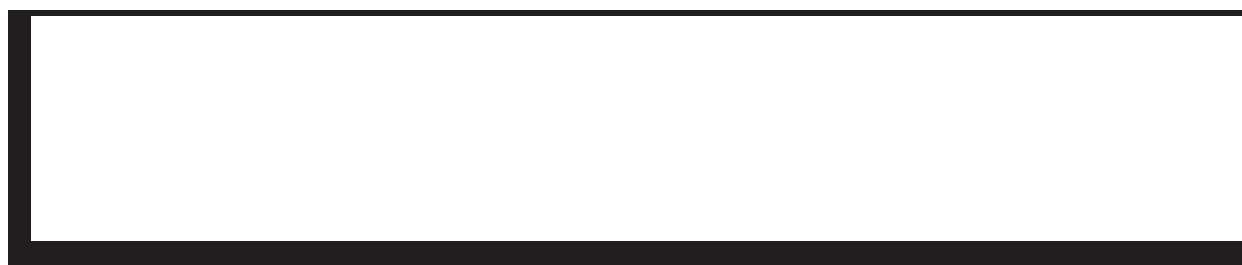
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