Welcome back to the 2014 school year. Hopefully everyone has had a restful and peaceful break. I would especially like to extend a warm welcome to all our new students and their families. I hope and pray that you will benefit from and enjoy your time at the College.

Welcome to our new staff members: Mr Stephen Bullock, Mrs Rebecca Graham, Mr Greg Cave, Mr Brett Donohue, Miss Kristy Partridge, Mr Ben Limbrey, Mr Luke McGinnity and Mr Michael Pugh. I am sure that we can all look forward to a fruitful year with these new members of staff bringing their skills and expertise to enhance the education that is on offer here at the College.

All communication will now be via the email. This Newsletter will only be available via email and then also posted on the College website. I would encourage everyone to make use of the College website as all communication will be posted to it for a Term and then archived on the website.

This week, the College has taken steps to implement the College Learning Technology Program by distributing the new laptops to Year 7 and Year 9 students. Both evenings ran smoothly and I want to thank the parents of Year 9 for the feedback that we received from the surveys, in order to help us streamline the process for the Year 7 students and parents the following night.

It would be obvious to everyone by now that the renovation of the College Hall has been delayed. We are working with the authorities to get an endorsement to commence building in the not too distant future. The delay has proved helpful in that we have been able to welcome into the College all the new students and their families in the traditional manner and that the Opening College Mass could be held here at the College.

It will be the year of initiative. Without the use of the College Hall for the rest of the year, changes will have to be made to various functions and events.

Therefore the management of these events and functions will have to change on occasions to different venues or scaling back the event to a limited number.

The first event being the High Achiever’s Assembly which was held at the Catholic Club today. Due to limited seating, one year group has had to stay behind at the College.

Mrs Keegan will put a copy of the HSC Report on the website shortly. Once again there has been an improvement in the HSC results with an increase in the number of Band 6’s and the number of nominations for the various exhibitions of HSC works.

I am sure that it will be an exciting year for the College with enrolments at a close to all time high, building works progressing and everyone enacting this year’s Marist Theme, “#Serveoneanother”.

I look forward to working with you to develop your son to be the best that he can be.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

There is no doubt that those who penned this Marist theme for 2014 were successful in making it one that would be remembered.

Hashtags are very much a part of modern lives as more than 347000 tweets are sent every minute! Hashtags are a way of tracking topics so when you use them, you can help people who are interested in your subject matter find what you have written. You can also stay in touch with these topics and learn what other people are saying. If you are really serious, you can set up permanent searches for topics that interest you, so that you have a constantly updated source of information.

As a Marist community we are being encouraged to be active in our thinking and our work of being servants. As a Marist community we are encouraged to learn what other people are saying and to understand on a deeper level what it means to serve one another.

If we’re really serious, we should have a constantly updated source of information regarding our faith and what is being asked of us as Christians.

St Paul in his writing encourages us to be of one mind, to look out for one another’s interests, not just our own, and to be humble, kind and compassionate.

If Jesus himself was tweeting today, I wonder what he would write?

The greatest among you shall be your servant.

So let us take seriously the call to serve one another. Being attentive to the needs of another person is what loving actually means. We need to be attentive to each other. Only then will true service be a trend in our community.

Cathie Clarke, Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Year 7 News

The boys arrived dressed immaculately. The first impression is always a tell-tale sign of the year to come and it bodes well for a great year. I have been very impressed with the ability of the boys to digest the enormous amount of information and still make it to all the events without too much angst. Our first sports afternoon together ran exceptionally well and all boys had a go at swimming the length of the pool in various stroke formats and were then rewarded with some free time in the water on a hot day.

The boys were very involved in all the preparations for the Opening Mass with some doing readings and all practising their singing. It was another spectacular day in their opening week of being at the College.

All Year 7 students should by now have their laptops, ID cards and lockers.

I ask parents to please sign their son’s diary each week and any associated stamps that may be awarded throughout the week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on any matter and congratulations to all the boys on a great start to the year.

Stephen Hartnett, Year 7 Coordinator

2013 College Dux

Congratulations to Dean Boucher, who was today announced as the College Dux for 2013 with an ATAR of 99.4. Dean will be going to the University of New England to embark on a medical degree.

“The greatest among you shall be your servant.”

Dean Boucher 2013 College Dux
Our Debating and Public Speaking season for 2014 is now ready to begin. Our season starts with the 23rd Annual Gordon Fetterplace Public Speaking Competition. This year the competition is on 14 February in the Donovan Centre. This is a wonderful event to begin our Public Speaking season and we encourage students to ‘have a go’. For the first time there will be staggered starting times. Years 11 and 12 will commence speaking at 6.30pm, Years 9 and 10 will commence speaking at 7pm and Years 7 and 8 will commence speaking at 7.30pm with presentations to be held at the conclusion of all the speeches. We look forward to a wonderful evening of entertaining speeches.

Our external Public Speaking competitions begin on February 21 with the first round of the CSDA Public Speaking Competition and the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition on 12 March.

Our Debating season will begin in week 9 of this Term. I look forward to informing you about future Public Speaking and Debating events as they occur. It is with great excitement that we begin our season.

Maria Santos
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator
Welcome to the 2014 sporting year. Parents are reminded that there are several CCC sports, e.g. Softball, Volleyball, Triathlon, Tennis, Golf, that students can register for on www.csss.com.au. Check that website for registration process and closing dates. Upon your registration Mr Millar and I receive notification for our approval, you will not need to contact us.

BASKETBALL
In Round 9 of the MCS Competition St Gregory’s teams had four wins and a loss against Dundas. Highlights from 1st grade included Lachlan Anderson scoring 16 points and Brandon De Souza scoring 13 points.

CRICKET
In Round 9 of the MCS Competition our teams had seven wins from eight games. The First Grade game was a forfeit by Dundas and our Second Grade team defeated our Third Grade side.
Our First Grade team played their third game in the Downie Trophy competition, with a 168 run win against St Peter’s College, Tuggerah. Highlights included Bailey Dickinson 106no and Mitchell Taylor 4-16.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

SATURDAY SPORT—RUGBY UNION
On Saturdays in winter, the College offers all students the opportunity to play Rugby Union through our membership in the Independent Sporting Association’s Rugby Union competition. All boys are welcome, even if they have never played. Registration forms are available from Student Services.

Max Spencer, ISA Sports Coordinator

Canteen Helpers
Families and friends of the College are invited to help in the Canteen.
We particularly need help on the first, second and third Tuesday and third and fourth Wednesday of the month.
Contact Lyn on lynette.bristow@stregs.nsw.edu.au if you can help.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS!
Walk socks and Year 8 Art Packs have arrived and can be collected!

Blazer Night
Thursday 13 February 6pm to 9pm
Please ensure you have placed your order by the end of February to guarantee delivery before the holidays!

Detailed reports on Sport and Saturday Sport are located on our News page