Welcome Year 7

Young to be starting high school and yet just six months younger than our Year 9 to 12 students were when they started Year 8. So, not so young for Year 7 starting high school. Indeed, we were struck by how the students appear to have grown since we saw them for orientation in early December last year.

Mrs Jacqueline Sheehan and Mrs Michelle Lynch were most impressed with the students and, with pastoral teachers and administration staff, will guide them through the first few cycles of the timetable as they grow to learn the patterns of subjects, teachers, rooms and the week A & week B timetable. Some students were concerned about class allocations where much thought has been given to establish mixed ability class groups for most classes. Several times students asked about this. These students will come to know the many new people in their grade as they journey through high school. They will grow in confidence as they establish their identity in the context of close friends, particular subject class groups, as a Year group and as Marymount high school students. Relationships will shift but firm friendships will hold. There are just over 220 students in Year 7 and we are delighted and excited by their arrival at the College.

Welcome Year 8

Our Year 8 students begin high school six months older than our Year 9 to 12 students were when they began Year 8 and it showed. They certainly looked ready for high school and Mrs Cathy Cooper and Mr Peter Carroll spoke highly of their maturity and cooperation throughout their first two days. For teaching staff there remains the processes of guiding the students as they adjust to the routines of high school and there is an opportunity to continue to seize the advantage the National Curriculum has brought to Queensland schools. The prescribed content and processes of the National Curriculum aligned Queensland syllabuses with those in the southern states of NSW and Victoria three years back. These Year 8 students will be met by a curriculum that has already been adjusted to their age. Teachers and students will appreciate this as these students begin Year 8 and move through high school. Of course there is a challenge of sorts for the Year 9 students to establish their leadership, academically, in sport and the arts as they move through high school because this Year 8 group below them is just six months younger and very keen to establish their presence at Marymount.

Welcome New Students Year 9 to 12

With transfers of families to and from the Gold Coast we welcome quite a number of new students across other year levels each year. This year is no exception as we welcomed just over 30 new students from various parts of Australia and some from overseas. These enrolments are most important to the overall stability of the College enrolment that is just under 1240 as we finished week 1. We thank all families for their confidence in the College. We will strive to provide high quality Catholic education in a supportive school environment.
environment as we work in partnership with parents throughout the years of your son’s/daughter’s enrolment at Marymount College.

Welcome New Staff
As we welcome new students, we also welcome 25 new teachers to the College – a net increase of 18 teachers as we cover those on leave and who have left. This increase has allowed for an increase in the number of classes and an easing of pressures on class sizes, particularly in Year 7.

An updated Staff List including details of Senior Administration, Pastoral and Academic Coordinators is available on our website.

Bookshop & Uniform Shop
Thank you to all parents and students for attending to collect text books prior to school commencing. This process helps with establishing routines and the start of effective teaching as we begin the year. Our appreciation to the team of staff who ran the operation in the Doyle Centre over the two days and to Mrs Barrett who coordinates the uniform and bookshop assisted by Mrs Dicks and other staff who are recruited at these peak times.

Staff Professional Development days
On Tuesday 20 January we welcome new staff with brief meetings with members of the College Administration Team, Academic Coordinators and Pastoral Coordinators. A family BBQ lunch brought together most of our staff and family members. Staff actually returned to work on Wednesday 21 January for three Professional Development days that began with an opening Mass. Father Ken Howell, our Parish Priest presided and expressed our hope that many more of our community will join us each Sunday when the new church is built at the top of the site of Marymount College and Marymount Primary School. Construction of the Church is expected to commence early this year.

Father Michael Whelan, from the Aquinas Academy in Sydney, was our keynote speaker on the first day. His presentation covered contemplative practice that reminded each of us that we needed to be ‘centred’. He suggested focussing on breathing and simple mantras as a regular habit. For example, sitting quietly, breathing steadily and silently saying ‘Be still...and know...I am God’ as we breathe.

He challenged us to understand that we are both ‘rock’ and ‘stumbling block’ in God’s plan in this time of transition in our life, in our institutions and in society. Being grounded in the messiness of life and being people of hope was our challenge “because the answer to ‘what’s going to happen?’ is ‘I don’t know’ and coming

Students will come to know new people in their grade well as they journey through high school
to terms with the brokenness of it all requires a place to stand beyond the brokenness of it all". His presentation was about right relationships and his keynote point was that ‘the major task in life is reconciliation of brokenness, of broken relationships.

On Thursday 22 January all staff completed the revised mandatory training regarding our responsibilities for student protection and mandatory reporting. The legislative changes will also impact mandatory training for volunteers. Individuals who harm children need to be faced with a supervisory and reporting regime that is absolutely hostile to activity that can cause harm to children. The training seeks to establish a critical perspective that will ensure student safety.

Academic and Pastoral meetings followed on Thursday afternoon and on Friday 23 January CPR training and risk assessment processes for activities and sport completed the week. On Tuesday this week we continued the focus on the Art & Science of Teaching, a whole school approach to teaching and learning intended to unite our teaching methods and maximise our effectiveness in teaching students and forming them as lifelong, self-directed and capable learners.

My appreciation to the College Administration Team for their work, organising and coordinating the program, the support of secretarial and ancillary staff and to all teaching staff for the professionalism that they brought to these important days and matters covered.

Update on Building Works
We are unhappy with the delay in the completion of Block 10. It will cause students and staff significant disruption for much of Term 1. We are, however, pleased with the quality of workmanship by JMK Constructions and of the design of the building by Bertoldi Architects. It will be a fine building when completed. We rely on our passionate and professional staff and the whole-heartedness of our students as we cope with the inconvenience and messiness of the next seven weeks.

We acknowledge and thank Valdon Constructions for their excellent and timely work on staff areas, to accommodate additional staff, and on the driveway adjacent to the administration building and Uniform Shop over the break.

ANZAC Day Centenary
In April five students from Brisbane Catholic Education schools will travel to Gallipoli to witness the historic Anzac Day centenary commemoration and visit the Western Front battlefields in France and Belgium.

The students, Darcy Reynolds, Marymount College Burleigh Waters, Brianna Ushay, St Columban’s College Caboolture, Majella Pearl, St Mary’s College Ipswich, Renee Drury, Clairvaux MacKillop College Upper Mt Gravatt and Zack Lindenberg, St Patrick’s College Gympie will join sixty-five other students from around the state who were recipients of the Premier’s Anzac Prize.

Each student was selected after submitting their reflections on the importance of the ANZAC Day tradition and how it has shaped the Australia of today. Congratulations to all the students on their selection.

Chris Noonan
Principal
Opening Liturgy
9:15am Tuesday 10 February Doyle Centre. All parents are invited to join us for the Opening Liturgy. Please RSVP to the College at info@marymount.qld.edu.au to assist with seating arrangements.

Year 12 Retreat
The annual retreats for Year 12 students have been scheduled for Wednesday, 4th to Friday 6th March.

Costs are included with levies. As the retreat program is given high priority by the College, this retreat will be subsidised by the College. This year, five venues will be used:

- Bornhoffen (Hinterland)
- Mount Tamborine
- Kindilan (near Cleveland)
- Outlook (Boonah)
- Marsden (North Brisbane)

Students will be placed at one of these venues. Contact and location details will be provided early in Term 1.

The College’s retreat program is a highlight of the student’s year and is an integral part of the Religious Education Program. All students are expected to attend. An appointment will need to be made to meet with me to discuss any previous family commitments or reasons for not attending.

Buses will depart from the College at 8.30am for the venues on the Wednesday and return approximately 2.50pm on the Friday. Students are requested to bring the following:

- suitable clothing (including something warm and something waterproof) and covered footwear
- toiletries and towel
- sleeping bag / sheets and pillow cover (not required for Outlook)

College rules apply at all times. Students should not bring alcohol, drugs and cigarettes. Electronic equipment such as, ipods and mobile phones are not to be taken on the retreat. The reason for this is a safety issue and all venues have contact information that will be distributed to parents a few days prior to departure. We wish to encourage students to obtain the most benefit from this opportunity and to be really present to the moments and time.

Please complete and return the tear-off section in the letter sent home to their Pastoral teacher or to SAO by Friday 20th February, at the latest.

Letter mailed home to Year 12 Parents
You will receive a request in the mail to write a letter and to return this in the envelope provided. Students have no knowledge of this activity and it would be helpful if you could seal your letter in an envelope with their name on it, then place it in the pre-addressed envelope and return to the College no later than 21st February.

If you have any queries or difficulties with this request, please do not hesitate to contact me on 5586 1000.

Dolores Maitland
Assistant Principal Religious Education
Thank you to the parents and caregivers who made sure that the students were so well presented in their new uniforms

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SENIOR SECONDARY

A further welcome back from me personally to all students, but in particular, to all those in year 10 who have now commenced the transition into their Senior schooling; to the Year 11 students who have fully commenced their senior schooling and to the Year 12 students who have their most important final year of secondary studies. I look forward to working with each of you directly and in a variety of ways.

Students were issued with timetables as per their requests and we trust these reflect accurately the choices they made last year. Students may come and see me directly if there are concerns with their timetable. All students may request a subject change up until the end of week 3 of any semester. After that, students must remain in their classes for the semester. We will electronically publish an assessment calendar at the end of week 3. This will list every assessment item for every subject for the semester. Students should print this, highlight their particular subject choices and place the document in a prominent place. While there is the occasional necessary alteration to dates or assessment details, these nearly always remain as published. There are exam blocks each term for Year 11 and Year 12. Students are extended the privilege of only attending school for their set exam period. The schedule for the exam block is published each term a week prior to the commencement of the first exam. Check the school calendar for dates of these. Students completing a VET subject which requires the completion of competencies must also attend during exam block, until their class teacher records completion of these competencies for that unit of work.

Good luck to all senior students as they commence with their important studies. I trust that this is a successful and productive time for you all.

Peter Shaw
Assistant Principal - Senior Secondary

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JUNIOR SECONDARY

Welcome to the new school year! I hope everyone had a wonderful school break and ready to take up many opportunities for involvement, growth and learning across the College this year. Over the last couple of days, enjoyed watching the students reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones and impressed how the Year 7 and 8 students negotiated class timetables and adjusted to new routines. Thank you to the parents and caregivers who made sure that the students were so well presented in their new uniforms.

Some students find change in routines difficult and making the transition to a new school challenging. It may be dealing with more academic demands and changing social circle or just coping with new teachers. It is important that parents know that this is not unusual but please don’t hesitate to contact the College if you have any concerns.

Further information about what is coming up this term is in this newsletter, please mark the important dates in your diary and make sure that we have correct contact details so that we can keep you informed.

To you and your family, welcome to the school community, have a good year and please don’t hesitate to contact me I can be of any assistance.

Marie Hansen
Assistant Principal - Junior Secondary

Always have information at your fingertips!

Use the app to keep up to date with coming events, schedules, forms and communication sent home, and announcements.
The full school uniform is to be worn whilst travelling to and from school

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PASTORAL

School Uniform
The full school uniform is to be worn whilst travelling to and from school (except on designated sports days) and at all College functions.

Trousers
Boys may wear long grey trousers in the middle terms.

Shoes
Only black leather, lace-up traditional style shoes are allowed. Black joggers sold as school shoes or shoes with pointed toes or buckles are not part of the uniform.

For both boys and girls sports shoes are to be predominantly white traditional “runners”. Slip-on style or canvas shoes not permitted.

Bags
The navy blue Marymount regulation bag is required and is sold through the bookshop.

Skirts
Skirts are not to be shorter than 10cm off the ground when kneeling.

T-shirts
T-shirts with writing clearly visible are not to be worn under the white school shirt.

Hair
For all students, hair should be neat, clean and tidy. It should not be cut in an extreme fashion nor should it be coloured in an unusual or extreme way. For boys, hair should be to the shape of their head and should be no longer than the top of the collar. Girls’ hair should be tied back at the nape of the neck with a plain tie or blue or white ribbon. When leaning forward the hair should not obscure the face, for both boys and girls. Boys are to be clean shaven. Beards, Goatees, moustaches, rattails or long sideburns are not permitted. Boys are not permitted to have their hair tied back.

Jewellery, Make-up and Piercings
Students are not permitted to wear jewellery or make-up. The only exceptions are a wrist-watch or a plain cross can be worn with an appropriate chain. Girls may wear one plain stud or sleeper in each lower ear lobe.

Piercings
Lip, eyebrow, tongue and other visible piercings are not permitted. Large jewelled studs or earrings are not permitted. Clear studs are not permitted.

Tattoos
Visible tattoos are not permitted.

Students in breach of the uniform policy will be issued with a uniform detention.

Parents will be contacted if there are further breaches.

Geoff Browne
Assistant Principal Pastoral

To view the College Uniform Policy - Click Here
School Musical - Hairspray

DATE CHANGE

Due to errors in bookings beyond our control, the musical dates at the Arts Centre Gold Coast have changed. The musical week will now be Sunday 19 April until Wednesday 22 April with performances on the evenings of Tuesday 21 April and Wednesday 22 April.

A full rehearsal schedule will be available shortly outlining the rehearsals for the term.

Amy Anderson
Producer/Manager

The Tuckshop prepares a selection of fresh sandwiches, wraps and Turkish rolls every day.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

- Available at Morning Tea: Pikelets, Hedgehog Slice, Donuts, Muffins (some gluten free)
- Hot Food Items available during lunch: Meat Pies, Sausage Rolls, Chicken Burger, Spinach & Cheese Roll, Curried Vegetable Roll, Party Pies, Garlic Bread
- Sushi Available on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Payment is cash only - no IOUs are permitted

Tuckshop Roster

Week 2 - see below  February Roster click here

Volunteers start at 9:00am and finish at 1:30pm. Tuckshop vouchers ($5) are provided for each day, and $40 is credited against the P&F levy in term 4. Please contact the College on 5586 1000 or email Anita Maher amaher@marymount.qld.edu.au if you are able to assist in the Tuckshop.

DEBATING SIGN UP

Marymount has a long history of success in the Gold Coast Secondary Schools Debating Competition, and we’re now looking for enthusiastic students in all year levels to form our teams for 2015.

We’re not only looking for public speakers; if you have good general knowledge, a creative mind, logical thinking skills or interest in current affairs, you could be a valuable asset to a team.

The Gold Coast Debating Association works to ensure that topics are interesting and appropriate for students, with past junior debates touching on social media, popular culture and school holidays. Participants often speak of how debating experience helps them in a number of areas, including essay writing and skills in effective communication. Being part of a team also promotes understanding and working with others, and shows dedication and commitment.

Interested students should sign up as soon as possible in the Learning Support Centre in E14, and keep a close eye on the daily notices for updates. Debates take place on Wednesday evenings with four debates in Semester 1 in addition to weekly coaching sessions.

Annette McMahon
Debating Coordinator

Planning a Holiday? Check term dates here
On Wednesday 28th January, we welcomed our new cohort of Year 7s to Marymount College for the first time.

The students presented very well in their new junior uniforms, and as the students entered the Doyle Centre for their first day of high school, the room was soon buzzing with excitement.

The students settled quickly as they were organised into pastoral groups. Students then spent the morning with their Pastoral teacher along with the Year 11 Peer Support students who ran a number of “get to know you” games and activities. Although there was so much to absorb regarding timetables, rooms, rules and procedures, the teachers reported that the Year 7s were very attentive, cooperative and motivated to learn. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the teachers, Peer Support students and Year 7 students for making this first day of transition into high school such a success.

2015 is definitely shaping up to be an exciting year as we welcome so many new faces to our College community, including the following new staff members to our Year 7 Pastoral Team:

Ms Erica Hennigar (7AC)
Ms Trena Steele (7KG)
Ms Teagan Griffey (7BD)
Ms Leigh Dornan (7PJ)
Mr Matt Geyer (7BE)
Mr Matthew Hurley (7PI)
Ms Jodi Napper (7PK)

I am confident that our Year 7 team will ensure students feel welcomed, valued and supported as we challenge them to reach their academic and personal goals throughout the year.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the progress of your child this year please do not hesitate to contact myself, Mrs Jacqui Sheehan or Mrs Michelle Lynch at the college. We also welcome Mrs Lynch as a new addition to the college, and highly value the experience she brings to the role of Assistant Pastoral Coordinator Year 7 here at Marymount.

Both Michelle and I are looking forward to working with the new parents and students of our Year 7 group in 2015.

Jacqui Sheehan - Year 7 Coordinator
jSheehan@marymount.qld.edu.au
Michelle Lynch - Year 7 Assistant Coordinator
Michelle.Lynch@bne.catholic.edu.au

Interested in the history of Marymount College? Click here
Welcome Year 8 and their families to Marymount College.

It was wonderful to see smartly dressed, happy students present themselves Wednesday morning in the P&F Courtyard. Everyone was excited to be at high school, eager to receive timetables and begin class. A few nerves were to be expected. The College Leadership Team, PC Teachers and Year 11 Peer Support students soon helped Year 8 feel comfortable and less nervous.

Year 8 is to be congratulated on their immaculate uniform, positive spirit, ability to follow instructions and efforts to make new connections with others. Beginning high school can be a difficult transition for some. Smiling faces and peers willing to engage with others outside their friendship group go a long way to making all feel a sense of belonging. Well done Year 8 on being aware and responsive to the needs of others. I am very optimistic and excited about our year ahead.

Mr Carroll, Year 8 PC Teachers and myself are looking forward to beginning each school day with Year 8, 2015.

Cathy Cooper and Peter Carroll

Year 8 Coordinators
A warm welcome to all our Year 11 students of 2015!

During the ‘introductory’ day on Thursday you would have discovered some changes in our year level as well as the whole school as we greet the Year 7s and 8s and help them to integrate into our Marymount Community. You may also find new or different members of staff teaching your subjects. And of course you have Mr Matt Carroll as Year 11 Coordinator with Mrs Irene Scott as Assistant Coordinator.

We invite you to come and see us in E13, whether there’s something you wish to discuss or to just say hello!

Our sincere thanks to the Year 11 Peer Mentors. Your excellent participation in the training session last year and attendance this week to provide assistance for the new students is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Joshua Muir for his words below, which capture the spirit of caring, shown by our students towards one another.

Best wishes to our whole cohort for a successful and rewarding year ahead.

Matt Carroll and Irene Scott

Year 11 Coordinators

Before the Christmas holidays the Year 11 Peer Support group got together and spent a day learning, listening and watching different ways which we can interact and help the new grades coming into high school. We were shown what it takes to be a leader and what it takes to mentor others and to set an example for the younger students to live up to.

A few days later, we were introduced to the new 7s and 8s during their Orientation day. We split up into groups and introduced them to the school that was a about the become their home for the next 5-6 years. We attended to some “mock lessons” and got to show the students what school life would be like. We introduced the students to some of the teachers and some of the lessons they will be taking.

Now after the school holidays as we watched the new students from Years 7 and 8 walk into school on their first day, you could see and feel that some students were nervous, some excited and some felt both emotions. As a support team for the younger students we still have a lot of work to do to be prepared when we will visit them each week on a Friday. We will catch up on how they are doing and find out if they need help with anything or are simply still trying to fit in.

Up till now it has been an awesome experience and together with my fellow Support members I look forward to the rest of the year providing assistance and mentoring the younger students who have come to Marymount College.

Josh Muir

Year 11 reporter and Peer Support member
WELCOME FROM MR HAMILTON

I have taken over the role as Head of VET/Careers. Prior to this role, I have been a Pastoral Coordinator at Marymount for the last 6 years and will continue to be involved in the rugby league program. I am excited by the opportunities this position offers for staff and students a like. It is our goal in the VET/Careers Centre to ensure that each and every Marymount student has the opportunity to achieve their best in whatever pathway works for the individual. The VET/Careers Staff are only too willing to offer assistance to any student who needs advise.

TRAINEESHIP/APPRENTICESHIP/COURSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2015

It is vital that students continuing or commencing a traineeship/apprentice or a course please confirm details with the Careers Centre. This especially applies to those students who have had a change of day for this year. Please advise Ms Petrina James on 55861073 or visit the Careers Centre.

YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS

We would like to encourage you to think about your future carefully. If you have a dream or have heard about an opportunity that interests you, please visit the Careers Centre today to discuss your options. Have you change your mind? If so, let us help you though it, subject changes are now available.

SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN STUDENT

A rare opportunity currently exists with The Arts Centre Gold Coast. The position would suit a Year 10 or 11 student looking to pursue a career in the Arts and Creative Industries who is interested in completing a Certificate II or III in Business. For further details, contact Emma Di Muzio on 0413 223 977 or Emma.DiMuzio@artsready.com.au or see the Careers Centre today.

Visit the Marymount College Careers Centre online
YEAR 12 LEADERS

Taya Oxenham (Captain)

To me, being a leader means that there is an expectation that others will follow your example and look to you for support, advice, and general knowledge on important situations. As a leader, being aware of the attention to your character is of utmost importance, as others follow in your footsteps, and it’s this attention that can make the greatest positive impact in our school community.

I’ve always been very involved in College life, in extracurricular and academic activities, which in my role as school captain have taught me many skills, particularly how to work in a team environment. I’ve definitely learnt from the older students (who also participated in these activities too), by watching how they have lead the groups. The experiences to be a leader during Year 11 through participation in Rotary Interact, where I hold the position of President, being the Year 10 STAC Representative and a Peer Support member in Year 11, have all equipped me with a better understanding of people, the importance of respect and humility.

I’m very humbled to have my involvement and school spirit recognised by not only my teachers but also my peers. The fact that they have chosen to put their faith in me is a very rewarding feeling.

Jack Nelson - Captain

I wanted to become a school leader because it gives me the chance to give back to the College that has offered me so many opportunities for which I will be forever grateful.

I want Marymount College to be known as a place where a student can feel a part of one big family; a school where they can excel and gain support in all areas of their schooling life.

In Year 11 I was part of the Peer Support program that Marymount offers to help students build leadership qualities. This is where we look after a new Year 8 Pastoral class to give them some student guidance during their first year of high school.

To be honest I was so excited to be named a leader for 2015. It was the challenges of leading a whole student body that will really motivate me to do the best job possible. It is a huge responsibility but I am definitely ready for the year ahead.

Lucy Koschel Vice Captain

When I came over to Marymount College in Grade 8, I observed the senior leaders like a hawk. I followed their example, and everything they said I took for holy word. Ever since those moments I knew that leadership was something that I would aim for.

Being a leader to me, means that I would ensure, not only the young people are inspired to do great things, but our peers, students that walk the same path each day, to do the best job of their schooling that they can do. Being a guiding figure that people can turn to if they get lost in their studies and their journey here at the College.

Nixon Brass Vice Captain

I wanted to represent and serve Marymount College as Vice Captain in 2015, to help continue Marymount College’s path of excellence. I wanted to be part of a team that could make a difference that will be remembered and appreciated for many years to come.

Our school motto is “My God and My All” I would like the community to see Marymount College as the school with students who give their ALL in ALL areas be it their own personal studies, sports, the arts, fundraising you name it and we do it ALL for our Lord Jesus.

Growing up I was very fortunate to be surrounded by creative, highly educated people. When I started high school I attached my self to the service departments in the school. Groups that focus on helping others and raising money along with taking the opportunity to be involved in public speaking. In Year 10 I was fortunate enough to start a traineeship at Currumbin Wild Life Sanctuary where I continue to learn about many leadership skills

I am so happy that my teachers and fellow peers have allowed me the opportunity to serve them this year and I am so looking forward to representing my school. I think being a leader this year will just be a great way to finish high school!
The support you need
At a difficult time, Wes and Ashley Heritage offer the utmost care and attention, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the Gold Coast.

Heritage Brothers Funeral Services
43 Lower West Burleigh Rd
Burleigh Heads, Gold Coast, Qld
(07) 5535 8758 www.heritagebrothers.com.au