NEWSLETTER FORMAT
Following suggestions made regarding the online format of the Newsletter, we will make some changes. Our aim is to help readers find the quick link they need to the information they need when they go to the Newsletter for help.

We suspect that readers go to the Newsletter for Calendar information. Consequently we will add a Calendar button. Some Administration communication has not been found. Perhaps we will add this to the Principal’s Section. Many parents want to quickly locate information relating to their son’s/daughter’s Year level. We will add this to headlines where appropriate.

Because there is so much information and so many images available the format of a front page with images that work like buttons to open up more detail, readers need our help with the summary front page information. We are sure, if we get this summary information right, readers will quickly work out how to find the information they need to support their sons/daughters and the school just as they have always done.

Thank you for your patience with the introduction of the new format.

AGCC SPORT COMMENCES
Finally, after several weeks of practice for our College interschool sports teams the Association of Gold Coast Colleges’ Semester One Interschool Sport begins this week. The delayed start will see the competition finish a week later than originally scheduled with Finals coming just as the End of Semester Exams commence in early June.

Our appreciation, particularly to our Head of Sport, Mr Trent Balym, and to all the Team Coaches/Managers. Much is involved in establishing the many competitions across AGCC Sports Semester 1 2013 (Boys: AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Futsal Touch / Girls: Netball, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball). Without the commitment of teaching staff to the added demands of coaching/managing teams, attending to first aid, keeping track of sporting equipment and dealing with bus delays we would be confined to school based sport. Because of this commitment to AGCC interschool sport many teams will compete over eight rounds of preliminary games before semi-finals on 30 May and finals on 6 June.

We wish our teams well and thank all in anticipation of an enjoyable and successful season.

ST PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATION & ALMSGIVING
At times being Catholic can be so confusing. Again, this week in the middle of Lent, we’ve had students having a very good time, in casual dress, celebrating. If not for the hard work of student leaders, our Campus Minister Niamh Timlin and other staff, our Lenten Appeal for giving to Project Compassion might be missed. Celebrating the coming of Christianity to Ireland today in multi-cultural Australia probably only makes sense to many as “some sort of Christian celebration”. Having a free dress day, dressing up in green and buying green cakes, lollies and drinks in the middle of a time of prayer, fasting and alms giving probably further confuses everyone. Can it be explained?

It probably can’t be explained to purists. My late Aunty would say ”If the good Lord didn’t want us celebrating in Lent then no babies would ever have been born in Lent”. That’s probably the practical view. It is a view that parallels the Project Compassion fundraising view that getting donations to help people in need is hard work and so we should seize every opportunity. The funds raised will contribute to what will eventually be a significant contribution by the students to Caritas Australia’s work for the needy here in Australia and Overseas.

Of course, the post-modern view is that separating things out, lining them up in some constructed order and mechanistically going through the defined order is contrary to the way things really are. We need to recognise all perspectives; honouring and including these each day in a complex world of competing priorities, values and beliefs. Does anything go? I hear someone protest.

Well it may appear that way; and after does appear that way. However, our practice, as people of God is to recognise St Patrick’s Day as a celebration of the coming of Christianity (to Ireland) into our own lives at Baptism. At the same times, as it falls within Lent, here at the College we ask all to donate to project Compassion, happily giving those that do a small treat for their generosity.

Chris Noonan - Principal
APRE

We celebrate our new Pope Francis. And join with people all over the world that he may be blessed with good health and strong decisive leadership in the years ahead.

Retreats and Reflection Days are highpoints in the faith education aspect of the Religious Education curriculum. The importance of this is reflected in the fact that attendance is compulsory and part of enrolment at the College. It was disappointing that illness prevented some students in Year 10 and Year 12 from attending. For a few, the priority of other appointments was the reason.

In the past two weeks our Year 12’s have had their Retreat and our Year 10’s have been at their Reflection Day. The students are provided with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some special time away from the normal routines of school and the noise of the world in which we live. Even if it is too brief it allows them to taste another way. It allows them the space to reflect on their own journey and on relationships in family, with others and with God. Seniors enjoy some community living, being aware of others around them, serving food and cleaning up afterwards, taking care of the environment, praying together and enjoying simple fun which costs nothing.

Year 10 Reflection Day was facilitated by Michael Fitzpatrick. The students enjoyed their day and were led to considering the wisdom of some of the choices they have been making of late and the effects of unwise choices on their life at the present time.

Switching off and being separated from mobile phones is a bit of a wrench initially. Quiet time, reflection time, fun, introspection, prayer, laughter, calm, exuberance, compassion, appreciation, affirmation, God ... replaced them. No comparison.

Thank you to all staff who have allowed this to happen because of their generosity of spirit; those who were on Retreat Teams and those who covered for us back at school and thank you to our Principal Mr Chris Noonan who travelled all over the countryside to visit all five venues. Thank you to Fr Ken Howell, Fr Lucius and Fr Brian Noonan who attended at the venues and celebrated Mass for us.

Three teachers and I will attend in-service in Brisbane in the coming week. Our purpose is to prepare to lead the implementation of the new Religious Education Curriculum here at the College. The introduction of the new curriculum is a one in fifteen year event which brings new relevance and vigor to the subject matter of the twenty first century Religious Education classroom.

Project Compassion targets are being realized and today’s St Patrick’s Day celebration swelled the coffers some more. Niamh, our Campus Minister has a bottomless pool of ideas and energy to keep the enthusiasm and the message in front of the community. As of today more than $5000 has been raised.

Dolores Maitland - APRE
A feature of the school’s Assembly was the distribution of Student Reporter badges. Almost thirty students were recognised and awarded the privilege of writing about and for Marymount College.

Student reporters are a key part of school life. They provide a creative outlook on school events from a student’s perspective while voicing an individual opinion. Having the honour of being a student reporter gives us a chance to voice our own and our grade’s opinion on school issues. It also provides us with the opportunity to write about achievements in our Year level and to write a segment of the newsletter other students can relate to and understand. With student reporters active in every grade, the students feel like they have some input into school life and a chance to publicise the events and happenings of their year.

The Student Reporter badges make the reporters recognisable in the school community; they identify us in a specific and important role. Marymount reporters welcome students’ ideas and opinions, which can then be incorporated into future pieces for our Newsletter. So if you have something to say, talk to a student reporter - we’d love to hear it!

**Bella Cantoni - Year 9 reporter**

Everyone loves watching comical performances and the Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Drama classes were greeted by Emily and Hayden, two members of the Grin and Tonic Theatre troupe on a Monday morning. They performed for us a combination of Shakespearean plays, with a modern twist.

The performance we saw, ‘Livid’, combined the remarkable and popular plays of Hamlet, Macbeth and Othello, however the performance technique was actually based on them reenacting these plays. This very entertaining twist helped to create a magnificent and hilarious production that kept us amused and laughing!

Having backgrounds in high school drama and university work, Emily and Hayden’s talents shone through their characters and the way they interpreted Shakespeare was really creative and gave us a new way to look at Shakespeare.

It was really great to be able to observe a play based on Shakespeare, as the Year 10 Drama classes are currently being assessed on the very topic of Shakespeare! It was extremely helpful to observe their interpretation and Emily and Hayden gave us few helpful hints; one of which was to make sure we understand what the words mean and their importance.

**Shari Johnson - Year 10 reporter**

The Troupe wound three Shakespeare plays into an hour and a half, which as I’m sure you will agree, is quite difficult!

Macbeth, Hamlet and Othello. They did an excellent job and made the plays easy to understand and relatable to real life situations.

At the beginning of each play they had a 3-minute cartoon to explain what was happening in each play, they made these cartoons funny so we all enjoyed learning about what was going on.

The two actors, Emily and Hayden were very talented and we appreciated how much time and effort that they put in to learn their lines.

They helped us discover some things about acting in a Shakespearean play and the Year 10s appreciated that, as our assessment task for Drama is to perform a scene from one of Shakespeare’s plays.

We all enjoyed the performance very much and would like to thank Mrs Howe, Mrs Seggy and Ms. Anderson for organising this for us.

**Lucy Koschel - Year 10 reporter**
For the past few weeks, Year 10 students have been involved in Personal Development days, where we have been taught valuable lessons and skills we can put into real life situations. Split into four groups by gender and sport House colours, we participated in four workshops with guest lecturers over the two Thursday mornings. Each workshop was themed – Drugs and Alcohol, Study Skills, Sexual Choices and a ‘Real Talk’ Personal Identity seminar – lead by a very knowledgeable instructor taking in to account their own experiences and providing inspirational to us all.

A main idea throughout the discussions was that the choices we make now, as teenagers, not only affect us now and our future, but also those around us, our families, friends, peers and teachers, and the relationships we have with these important people in our lives. Although society puts a lot of pressure on us regarding the way we look, how we act, even the music we listen to, we need to over come these obstacles and really try to make the best decisions for ourselves personally.

The Personal Development days taught the Year 10 group so much as well as being very motivating and helpful. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen, it was a truly wonderful experience.

_Taya Oxenham - Year 10 reporter_
DEBATING

Debating teams from all grades have been working hard to prepare for their first debate of the year. This was a prepared debate, meaning the topic is given out to teams a week prior to the debate. Teams meet one afternoon a week after school to discuss their topic and write their speeches. The Year 11 debating team, consisting of Nikara Rangesh, Caitlin O’Connor, Aisling Waugh, Kaitlin Kinging, Maddie Dick and myself, were given the negative side of the topic “We should allow the sale of human organs”. We were to come up with arguments and find evidence to support this case. As the first speaker, I talked about the society points of view, presenting two points. My first point was that the sale of human organs will cause a prejudice system that holds more benefits for the rich than the poor. My second point was that it would pose a massive legal obligation for the government. Caitlin O’Connor, as second speaker, argued the individual points of view. Her first point was that selling human organs increase abuse, such as murder, and her second point was that it is not moral to sell one’s body parts. Nikara, being third speaker, rebutted the other team’s case and summarized Caitlin’s points and mine. This topic proved to be very intriguing. When writing our speeches, we researched areas such as selling organs on the black market and discovered that Iran is the only country where the sale of human organs is legal.

The remainder of the debates is secret topics. This means teams receive their topic one and half hours before the debate and have this time to come up with their arguments and write their speeches. Debating is a great way to build confidence and skills in public speaking. It is an excellent extra-curricular activity to be a part of, and I highly recommend it for anyone who is interested.

Caitlin McNamara - Year 11 reporter

INTER-SCHOOL CHESS COMPETITION

Marymount students put their best piece forward at the Gardiner Chess Interschool Tournament on 7th March. The teams ranging from students in Years 8 to 11 spent the day at Somerset College playing against schools from all over the Coast.

Marymount was able to enter four teams in the competition, despite the unfortunate absence of the Year 12 students, who were away on Year 12 Retreat at the time. Our students battled seven rounds against 30 other teams and ended the day with commendable scores. It was wonderful to welcome many new and enthusiastic players who gave their best efforts on the day.

Congratulations to Marymount Team 1, who played impressively in A Division. Although the day was challenging, the boys all managed praiseworthy scores. Special congratulations go to Cooper Ladlow for his 4 wins. Congratulations also to Jeremiah Camino, Phillip Oliver, Juventus Faamausili and Tyrique Faamausili of Marymount Team 2, who placed fifth in B Division, beating many other competitive teams. Right behind them was Marymount Team 4 who picked up sixth place in B Division. That team consisted of James Brimmer, Jake O’Neill, Daniel McIntosh and Grace Thompson. Also playing commendably in B Division was Marymount Team 3, consisting of Trent Mazzarella, Jackson Mazzarella, Tosin Thomsen-Ajayi and Ted Noonan.

The event was a learning curve for our many first time competitors, who were praised throughout the day for their excellent behavior, sportsmanship and all-round friendliness. The next competition will take place next term at All Saints Anglican School on 8 May. If you are interested in becoming involved in chess, visit the Learning Support Centre during lunchtime and inquire or play a game!

Jasmine Hodson - Year 11 reporter

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

“Women have such an inner strength, we really give everything we have got to everything we do in our lives,” said Petrina Zahpir, journalist and long-time guest speaker at the International Women’s Day festival.

Taking place at the Marriot Resort and Spa, the 2013 International Women’s Day festival was attended by a number of high-profile Gold Coast women, representing various workforces and senior high school students from numerous schools on the Gold Coast.

Starting with a ladies’ breakfast at 7:30 am, followed by the Youth Awards ceremony, guest speakers, workshops and a fashion parade, the day was both inspiring and educational to all those present.

Guest speakers included ladies from the emergency services, military forces, Lindy Charm School for Girls and there was even a special message played from one of Australia’s most influential women, Gina Rinehart.

The day was a huge success as it brought bright, enthusiastic and prominent women in our society together to inspire young schoolgirls, the future of Australian society, to believe that women are capable of anything.

In plain terms, the entire day could be summed up by a simple quote from Nellie McClung, “Never underestimate the power of a woman!”

Maddie Dick - Year 11 reporter

AN INSPIRATION

Of the entire day, my favourite part was definitely listening to all the different guest speakers. Particularly Tiggy Rogers, a young woman apart of the booming...
Australian mining industry

Tiggy spoke to us about her role in the company that she works for. She talked about showing leadership, and how being a leader is more than just a title. Even though she has little authority over anyone in the company she works at, she still manages to be a leader by showing initiative and being an effective worker.

Tiggy also spoke to us about the skepticism surrounding women working in mining industries, and how it’s something she has to face daily. Many people see working in the mines as a man’s job, but yet, here Tiggy stood in front of us, a determined young women, believing in her own ability to have any career she wanted, even one in mining.

This same issue was spoken about by many of the other guest speakers, including two women who worked as firefighters. They too explained how when they applied for their jobs, they were mocked and told that they shouldn’t be too disappointed if they weren’t accepted because many other more capable men had applied for the same position. Both these women persevered and managed to get to where they are today in careers they chose for themselves.

Today, it seems to still be an issue that men generally get paid more than women – around 20% more according to some statistics. Tiggy told us about how when she left university, she realised that the main reason for this pay difference is that whilst her male friends were haggling with companies to pay them more, her female friends and herself were just accepting job offers without pushing for a higher pay. She told us that we have to value ourselves and our capabilities just like men seem to do, and we should try to achieve whatever is best for ourselves in the workforce – whether it be pushing for a better pay or whatever else.

Many of the speakers talked about how International Women’s Day is not only a day to celebrate ourselves and our ability to achieve whatever we want to, but also a day to celebrate the women that shaped us in our lives, whether that may be a mother, grandmother, teacher or any other role model.

When I left the International Women’s day event at the end of the day, I took with me the message that we as women have to empower ourselves, and after that we can achieve anything. It doesn’t matter how much you are told, “you can’t”, just because you are a woman, as long as you know that you can.

Nikara Rangesh - Year 11 reporter

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JOURNALISM DAY AT BOND UNIVERSITY

Earlier this term, I was fortunate enough to be involved in ‘J-Day’ at Bond University, a hands-on journalism experience. Year 12 student Sam Burbury and I, joined 27 other aspiring journalists in Years 11 and 12 from schools all over the Gold Coast. After a warm welcome in the morning, students currently studying at the university gave us a campus tour, and the many facilities impressed every one of us.

Following the tour, we had a presentation from Mike Grensby, a successful travel journalist, and Kelly Flynn, Coordinator of TXT4U, both of whom fuelled the passion of every one of us. The rest of the day involved hands on experiences, the first in a television studio, where we each had the chance to play the role of a television presenter, as well as camera operators and crewmembers.

Finally, we took part in a ‘backpacking journalism’ activity where we worked both behind the camera and in front of it.

J-Day was a wonderful experience that has inspired and motivated me to continue along the path of journalism, and I am very grateful to Bond University and its devoted, friendly staff and students for making the day so enjoyable.

Jasmine Hodson - Year 11 reporter
Retreat was a time and place that was eagerly anticipated; time to make our own, time to spend with others in an environment suited to our particular group. Getting away from our daily routines to enjoy the wonders of nature gave us the chance to view life from another perspective. Beginning the Retreat with activities that required team building and group work skills, prepared us for the many group activities and sessions we enjoyed over the two and a half days. So many students conversed and socialised with people they would not have spent time with normally; overall bringing a certain ambience to the shared space. There was sacredness about where we were and what we shared.

Although not everyone felt the need to share their thoughts, the ones who did felt comfortable, doing so in front of both our big and smaller groups. The sessions had relevance for us, at a time in our lives when we constantly seek new pathways, reassurance and greater understanding of many complex issues.

Thank you to Fr Ken Howe for his visitation and celebration of Mass and to our Retreat leaders Mrs Maitland, Mr Shaw, Mr Cornor and Mrs Scott for taking us on a journey of self discovery and spiritual growth. Things we observed, things we felt, things we said, and moments of silence remain part of a precious memory that was Kindilan 2013.

Desiree Hughes  
Year 12 reporter and participant
We will all savour every memory of our Mount Tamborine Retreat with fervor and fondness. The people we spent those three days with, teachers of course included, are some of the best in the world and I am so happy that I had the chance to connect with them even further. Retreat for the team was invaluable and I’m certain everyone appreciated the opportunity to reflect on their inner self. Yes, I have ‘Post Retreat Depression’, but I also have ‘Post Retreat Motivation, Inspiration and Exhilaration’.

Ayla Beaufils  
Vice Captain and participant

THE OUTLOOK

We arrived at our destination which is situated in Boonah. A briefing provided us with details about what this Retreat entailed. It included several team building activities, spiritual growth and strengthening friendships.

The lovely thing about Retreat is that it’s not necessarily about what the activity is, but rather with whom you are communicating and the way in which you approach it. We discovered this through the low ropes course, which required a lot of calling back and forth and cooperation on behalf of each individual to ensure the success of the entire group.

We also recognised this in the Mass we had with Father Peter, and in all the other sessions we participated in, from moulding with clay to guessing which karaoke song matched each person. So without even consciously being aware of what was happening, we had become significantly closer as a group and got to know each other infinitely better by the time our Retreat regretfully drew to a close. So it was bye bye to beautiful Boonah, back on the bus and back to reality. And a weekend of assignments. But in all honesty, Retreat lived up to, and we’d like to think, surpassed all expectations, because of the marvellous group of students and teachers who we were so fortunate to spend this brief interlude with. I would like to embrace them all in a big metaphorical air hug and say thank you, thank you, thank you for making such a beautiful and meaningful experience possible.

We had the opportunity to write each other ‘warm and fuzzy’ notes, just brief little words of support and admiration. It was such a heartening thing to see people’s faces light up as they tore into their bags and hungrily devoured the kind words on the bus trip home. Many an ‘aaawws’ and ‘thank you’s!’ were heard, and even more intimate smiles of appreciation and gratitude filled the bus with a warm, fuzzy and positive atmosphere. We couldn’t have asked for a sweeter way to finish off the final school Retreat we will ever go on. Ever.

In conclusion, this retreat was nothing short of life changing. We bonded closer with our peers, teachers and became more confident in ourselves, too. I will always remember this retreat and it will always stay with us.

Bridget Thomas and Monnie Esmond  
Year 12 reporters and participants
BOND UNIVERSITY STUDENT FOR A SEMESTER

REMINDER: Applications for the May 2013 Student for a Semester program open on Friday, 15th March for Year 11 and 12 students. Students can complete an application online (www.bond.edu.au/studentforasemester) and get a true experience of university life, before leaving High School. The fee for this program is $238. See the Marymount College Careers Office for further details.

CASUAL POSITION VACANT – TREETOPS NEWSAGENCY

Bubbly Junior Required. 15-16 years old for afternoon and weekend work. Must be available 7 days a week. Interested students can submit their resume in person to Treetops Plaza Newsagent.

GOLD COAST INSTITUTE OF TAFE 2014 SCHOOL PROGRAM

GCIT’s Schools Programs gives Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 high school students the opportunity to attend GCIT one day a week to gain credit points towards a Queensland Certificate of Education. On successful completion of a one year program, students gain a Certificate I or Certificate II and over one to two years a Certificate III. NOTE: Students must be 14 years and 9 months of age to participate in this program.

HOW TO APPLY: Enrolment should only be considered if students can commit to regular attendance throughout the program. Apply online at gcit.edu.au prior to the 6th September closing date. Note that a school endorsement letter will be required acknowledging that the student will be released from school to participate. For further details, contact the Marymount College Careers Office today.

DEFENCE WORK EXPERIENCE 2013 PROGRAM

A number of exciting placements are currently on offer, one of which is closing soon...

- RAAF Base Amberley from 3rd-5th June 2013 (applications close 3 weeks prior to placement date)
- ARMY Enoggera from 29th April – 3rd May
- Female Residential Adventure Camp-Army Familiarisation – Gallipoli Barracks from 29th April – 3rd May (NOTE: closing date 28th March at 5pm)

For further details, see the Marymount College Careers Office or visit www.defence.gov.au/workexperience.

SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIP VACANCIES

Certificate III Hospitality x 2
Barista at Zarraffa’s Burleigh Heads vacancies exist which involve register and food preparation duties (Year 11 Student only). To apply, students are asked to send their resume to resume@glorious.net.au.

- Certificate III Business at Australian Migration Services in Robina is available. Contact Ricky Naicker at ricky@aiol.net.au.
- Certificate III Hospitality at Thai Wicked Wok Burleigh. Please email resume to petergalanga@msn.com.
- Certificate III Outdoor Recreation with College of Surfing Burleigh. Please email resume and cover letter to learn@collegeofsurfing.com.

For further details on any of these positions, please see the Marymount College Careers Office today.
Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen