The Christmas Star

It matters not who or what you are,
all people can behold the Christmas Star.

For the Star that shone is shining still
in the hearts of everyone,
of peace and goodwill.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence
Or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Psalm 51:10

Today trim your life with an inner beauty. The Star shines for one and all.

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

This is the final Marian Newsletter for 2016. It has once again been a highly successful year for the College and I thank everyone for a wholehearted effort. The past few weeks has seen no slackening of resolve as every week featured students and staff striving to do their best in a whole range of curriculum, extra-curricular and sports activities. I also thank parents who have supported these events. The award ceremonies featured in this newsletter were equally well attended.

The week has been one of reflection and celebration of achievements. There have been a number of awards ceremonies and sitting on the stage I am privileged to see the pride shining from the faces of students and the love of their parents when a name is called out to collect a certificate. It doesn't matter whether it is one or many awards, the emotions expressed are the same. I am aware of many of the “journeys” made by students this year to make a success of themselves. It takes courage to do well. It is one of the attitudes needed to be successful and I, along with all staff, are very proud of the notable achievements by our students. I look forward to the next occasion where we will gather to acknowledge their efforts.

Staff departing Marian Catholic College This year we bid farewell and best wishes to the following teachers;

Mrs Fiona Harris, and Ms Bergmeier. I thank them for their contribution in building the Vision and Mission of Marian Catholic College. May you forever keep Marian Catholic College in your hearts as you are in ours.

Finally, I thank you once more for your contribution towards making Marian Catholic College a success and wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May everyone stay safe and well until school reopens. Dates for 2017 are as follows: Staff return Friday 27th January, Years 7, 11&12 Monday 30th January and Years 8, 9 &10 on Tuesday 31st January.

Upcoming events

Monday 12th December

Blessing of MCC Gugaa (Goanna)-Outside MCC Office at 9am

2016 College Major Award Ceremony 10am: Marcellin Hall

Photos of both events will be posted on the Marian Catholic College Facebook site and will be available in the 2016 MCC Magazine.

Please see Page 5 for Uniform Shop Opening hours for January 2017

Peace and Best Wishes

Principal
Learning and Teaching News

Year 8 Narrative Writing Day

At the beginning of this week, Year 8 students participated in a full day workshop focusing on Narrative Writing. These workshops were developed and delivered by Miss Angela Brown and Mrs Justine Parle. Many thanks go to these innovative, young teachers who accepted the challenge of improving our students NAPLAN outcomes with enthusiasm. Across the two days, it was inspiring to see how engaged the students were. The student writing developed and shared on each of the days was also very impressive. Please see over the page for photographs.

The aim of the workshops was to develop students’ skills in the process of constructing a written narrative. It is hoped that this, in turn, will positively impact upon all aspects of the students’ writing as they move into Year 9 next year. A secondary aim was to improve the students’ confidence and ability to compose written narratives in the upcoming NAPLAN testing, which they will undertake in 2017. Students will also participate in a second workshop in Term 1 next year to further consolidate their learning.

The students worked through a guided process of using stimuli as a prompt to construct a piece of narrative writing. They will be explicitly taught the skill of planning, structuring and composing a narrative, using a basic scaffold to assist them. The students were each given a writing tool kit to take home and use to further practice their writing. This kit included a writing scaffold with which they can use to further develop their writing, and a writing workbook for them to continue their practice independently.

Year 7 to 10 Reports

Student reports have been emailed today. These reports are an excellent reflection to parents of their child’s attitude to learning and academic progress. Early next year, students will use these reports to develop personal learning goals for Semester 1. These learning goals may relate to organisation, participation in College activities, attendance, study habits, knowledge acquisition or development of particular skills, such as writing. Each student will have their own unique goal as determined by their teachers’ feedback on the report.

Should you need to contact your child’s teacher for further clarification of the report, please contact the College next week to make an appointment.

Merry Christmas and see you in 2017.

Christie Scoble

Assistant Principal - Learning and Teaching
### PRAYERS PLEASE

We pray for any families in our community who have lost loved ones or are suffering illnesses.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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- **END OF YEAR MAJOR AWARDS CEREMONY 10:00 am**
- **MCC Googa Blessing 9:00am**
- **College Social**

- **Students Last Day—Lake Talbot**

### CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 4  2016

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- T Savage
- K Demartin
- L Quinn

- NO CANTEEN

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### Lockers

**Student Locker Clean-Out**

Lockers are to be cleaned out and locks removed before the end of the term. New locker numbers will be issued for 2017.

A $20.00 fee is payable per year for the hire of a locker.

Please be aware if any items are left in the lockers they will be removed and discarded.
UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Students going into Year 11 2017, please purchase your senior uniform before the end of term 2016

Reminder that Uniform shop will be opened during the holidays January 23, 24, 25—8:00am to 2:00 pm

Raeleen Ceccato
Uniform Coordinator
69692432

HELP NEEDED

St Pat’s School needs your help!
If anyone has any class and staff photos from 1972 and 1979 they would like to borrow them for their archives.

You can contact St Pat's on 69642888 or Marie on 69624338. Thanks in advance.
YEAR 11 XMAS RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE — William Lyon — Blue Tooth Speaker
2nd PRIZE — Ellie O’Keefe — Xmas hamper
3rd PRIZE — Tracey Oslington $50.00 Griffith Central Voucher
4th PRIZE — Mark Taffrey — $50.00 Griffith Central Voucher
5th PRIZE — Isaac Donadel — Cinema and Bowling Package

LITURGY NEWS

Thank you to everyone for a fantastic year in 2016. This year we have seen a number of students participate in masses and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved as a lot of work happens behind the scenes to ensure our liturgies and masses run so smoothly. Thank you to Fr Christian — for being our College Chaplain; Mr Segrave — for the many hours he spends setting up PA systems and preparing the choir and band to sound so amazing; Simon & Warren, - for setting up everything; Mrs Farrugia — for her needlework; Mrs Segrave- for organising students to enter into the hall in a timely manner; Miss Vardanega, Mr Blanco, Mrs Blanco, Miss Scoble, Mr Le Brocque — for being our extraordin- dary ministers; all the members of the choir and band, and Joshua Feltracco and Shantel Shipton — for being our altar servers for every mass.

Next year we look forward to many more beautiful liturgies and masses. We will continue to open the chapel one lunch a week for those students who may wish to access a quiet area to pray. Also I would like to claim the date for some important masses in the first term of 2017.

Opening School Mass — Thursday 9th Feb 1pm
MCC Youth Mass — Sunday 12th Feb 9am
Ash Wednesday Mass — Wednesday 1st March 1pm
Easter Mass — Friday 7th April 1pm

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and holiday season.
Belinda Aventi
English is the Word!

Last night we found out that English is well and truly the word on everyone’s lips for 2016!

It was yet again another wonder Festival of the Word following on from our great success over the last few years.

The night was a celebration of all things English including: Speeches from Year 7 Joseph Nehme and our National Finalist from Year 11 Megan Beecher. Last night also saw a group of Year 10 students perform their plays they wrote and developed themselves. We also saw a retelling of a traditional Samoan Myth, wonderful Year displays in the Art Room, Year 10 Commercials, Year 9 Suspense Trailers, a presentation to Extension 2 Student Andrew Seton, a Shakespearean Insults competition and our first ever Spelling Bee.

Congratulations to Branavan Thevashangar who won the Spelling Bee and Aibo Kaibwa who came second. Also congratulations to Erin Golden who won the Shakespearean Insults and Mrs Toni Griffiths who won a season subscription at the Griffith Regional Theatre after being drawn in the lucky door prize.

A big thank you to all the staff who assisted with preparations and to all the students who participated. Also thanks must go to Griffith Central who donated $100 worth of prizes, Griffith Regional Theatre who donated a $30 prize and Betty Boo for donating costumes.

Thanks to all teachers, students and staff who attended to watch, I encourage more to come along next year as it was a great night!

On Monday students that participated with a free Pizza lunch in the Drama Room and one lucky student will be drawn to win a $25 gift voucher at Griffith Central!

Until next year don’t forget English is the Word!
This week some of the year 10 members of the "COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM" worked with junior students under the supervision of our Science department to assemble 50 solar powered light kits. The kits were purchased with funds received as part of the Connections UnitingCare Anti-Poverty Award.

“Solar Buddy” is an Australian not-for profit organisation which distributes solar lights to households in third world countries thus reducing the need for kerosene lanterns; which not only are a significant risk for burns but are a leading cause of respiratory problems consequently putting pressure on an already under resourced health system. The goal of the organisation is to reduce and ultimately end the devastating cycle of energy poverty in marginalised communities across the world.

**Energy poverty is an issue that is little known by people around the world.** Many people assume that poverty only means lacking money or food, but it also means cooking and living with very primitive energy sources, which could be even deadlier than malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. If nothing is done by 2030 about the energy poverty crisis, 4,000 people could die each day of the toxic smoke and fires from primitive, unsafe stoves and lamps.

Students also write a brief message of “goodwill and hope” that will be included with the solar lights which will be distributed to communities in need throughout Bangladesh. Students will be able to follow the “lights” journey and hopefully be able to witness the positive impact on a community and the reaction of the recipients reading their messages. Please take the time to have a look at the website and learn more about this organisation. Thank you for Mrs Dumbleton and Mr Chowdury for facilitating the activity and to all of the students involved.

Thank you for everyone who donated to our Christmas Hampers. As a school community we created 32 hampers with boxes of additional items and funds which will be used to support families in need during the festive season.

Have a wonderful weekend; stay safe and be happy.

Regards Sue Hone *(Pastoral Care Worker)*
Semester III Awards
Safe Partying Talk

Today year 10 had a visit from the Griffith Youth Liaison Officer, Senior Constable Blom to speak to them about Safe Partying and underage drinking. It was a great success with lots of students asking questions, engaging in the presentation and listening intentionally to what she had to say. In response to the increase in young people engaging in unsafe behaviours such as underage drinking and drugs, the presentation aimed to educate them on how to seek help and how to be safe.

CAMP WOMBEROO

All of Year 10 attended a three camp held at Womberoo, 15 mins from Mittagong in the Southern Highlands. Activities were designed to build teamwork and collaboration.

Lisa Davis
Acting Year 10 Coordinator
Marian Catholic College presents...

AUSTRALIA vs BRITAIN

Marian Club Cabaret

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

Early Bird Prices**
$25 Adult – $20 child/concession
**Before Friday 10th March

$30 Adult – $25 child/concession
* price includes platter
Tables 8-10 people
PH 69692400

MARCH 24TH & 25TH 2017
7PM
MARCELLIN HALL
MARIAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE