



Marian College

A Kildare Education Ministries School in the Brigidine tradition

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From the Head of Organisation and Student Pathways



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Students of Marian College,

- ❖ *We encourage excellence and perseverance in learning,*
- ❖ *We strive for continuous improvement*

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Please open our eyes. Please let us see those around us that are in need of our compassion. Compel us to listen to them, to hear their needs. Give us the heart to be interested in their troubles and provide for us the means to help them. We want to be compassionate. We want to be like You that had so much compassion for the world that You sacrificed Your Son on a cross for us. We want to have that kind of heart for the world that we will do all we can to be a voice for the oppressed, a giver to the poor, and encouragement for the less abled than us.

Lord, we desire so much to be compassionate. We want to be aware of those in need. We want to have the means to help. Let us give to those who are not as privileged as we are. Give us the confidence in our actions so that we can give back. Let us be open to our imagination so that the creativity we may need can flow easily and not be suppressed by doubt. Let us be what others need, Lord. This is all we ask. Use us as a vessel of compassion to a world in need.

In your Holy Name, Amen.

Year 12 Retreat

Under the guidance of Mr Stephen East, the Year 12 students of 2022 examined the 'year of compassion'. Two keynote speakers provided much food for thought for our students. Sr Brigid Arthur, founder of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, spoke on the need for compassion for those who are in Australia's detention centres and have been for many years. She was able to highlight the importance of the need for a change of attitude and policy by the government, whoever they might be. She brought along Ali with her, an asylum seeker who has experienced what it is like to be in "prison" in one of Australia's detention centres in Melbourne.

The second speaker was Ms Clare Bowditch, Aria Award winning musician and best selling author. She spoke to the students about 'taming their inner critic' providing some very practical strategies to help them overcome those negative voices that shout at us to stop and that we are not good enough. She sang some songs and gave students an insight into what it is like to find fame as well as to have to battle depression and uncertainty. Clare was inspirational to our students and set them up for the year ahead.

While the weather was on the chilly side, the students were able to enjoy all the benefits of Cave Hill Creek campsite. They enjoyed canoeing, raft building and climbing the giant's ladder. It was also a time of reflection on who they are to each other and wrote affirmations to each other. They also received letters from

their parents which certainly provoked much emotion and thought.

Year 7 Activities week

The Year 7's have been enjoying getting to know their teachers and taking part in the excellent programme that Ms Rhonda North devised for them for the week. They have been able to find their way around the school, meet new friends and generally establish some routines for themselves. It has been a wonderful transition for them into the culture of Marian College. All teachers look forward to beginning classes with them and taking them through the more formal curriculum.

Please note that the Year 7 Camp at Lorne has been postponed and is now being held at the end of this month. Please keep an eye out for more information on this in the coming weeks. Permission letters will be sent out soon!

Masks

It is very important that students bring their own masks to school. If they catch a bus to school, they must wear their mask on the bus. Masks have been made mandatory for all the time that students are indoors. This is generally most of the day. Please ensure that your child has their mask(s) with them when they leave the house in the morning.

Hats

During Term 1 it is mandatory that students wear a hat while they are outside. If your child does not have a school hat to wear, they are available from the school office for \$7. Please ensure that your child has a hat to wear during Term 1.

Rapid Antigen Tests

These have been distributed to all students. If your child has not brought theirs home with them please contact the office to see if they have picked them

up. Each staff and student of the school has received a pack of five (5) tests. We recommend that your child takes a test on Wednesday night or Thursday morning and then again on Sunday night or Monday morning. If they test positive, please keep them home and let the school office know of the test result.

Intermediate and Senior Cricket

Cricket is on at the moment and our senior students are anticipating a great result from the competition that will be held on Monday. We are excited that sport is back on the calendar, as many students will also feel happy that they can participate. Marian College has a COVID Safe plan for all excursions that are scheduled on the calendar and we will do our best to keep students as safe as possible.

We look forward to working with you and your child during this term and you can be assured that we are doing all we can to make sure that students and staff remain well and safe during this time of uncertainty.

Lucy Edwards

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Name: Susan (Sue) McPherson

Teaching Domains:

Junior Science and VCE Biology

My story so far...

I grew up on a farm near Glenorchy, I went to Stawell High, then Ballarat and Clarendon College. Studied a Bachelor of Science, then worked in medical research at CSIRO. Moved to East Gippsland, had two children, My son Liam is an Agronomist in Hay and my daughter Brooke studies nursing at Deakin Geelong. I completed my Grad dip in Education in 2008 and had been teaching at Nagle College Bairnsdale since.



What I love about teaching is:

Teaching has allowed me to experience a whole range of activities I would not normally have done.

The students give me energy and continue to teach me new things everyday. I love helping students achieve their goals.

When I was at school I was:

The sporty kid who talked too much in class!

It's not really fashionable but I love:

Trackies and birkenstocks. Sometimes at the same time!

My friends say that I:

Am brave!

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Name: Emma Dawes



Teaching Domains:

School Counsellor

My story so far...

I have worked for NFP community services working with vulnerable children and families as well as formerly running our Child and Adolescent Psychology Practice with my husband, (who is also a psychologist). I recently was part of an initiative at Uniting Ballarat offering a Mental Health Wellbeing Hub providing a walk in mental health service for the community which was well received and much needed. I love working with kids and

families assisting them through the ups and downs of development during what can be a particularly turbulent time. I live on our hobby farm near Ballarat with my husband and three boys together with our labradors and horses.

What I love about counselling is:

Offering a safe, welcoming space for someone to be themselves, unload, reflect and find strategies to overcome difficulties.

When I was at school I was good at: Talking!

I am always being asked:

As a mum of three boys the daily question is, Mum, what's for dinner?

It's not really fashionable but I love: Genealogy

My friends say that I:

Never give up

YEAR 12 RETREAT



Last week the Year 12s made their annual pilgrimage to Cave Hill Creek to attend their Retreat to kick start their final year at Marian College. The Retreat provides an opportunity for the Year 12s to bond together as they embark on their final stage of their secondary educational journey. Though there were many obstacles to overcome due to the ongoing pandemic, the students displayed resilience and flexibility which ensured that the Retreat was successful.

Throughout the Retreat there were many sessions which invited the students to reflect on a number of important aspects such as their personal journeys, their individual and group identities and what the Year of Compassion means. They did this through a number of activities based on scripture, Kildare Ministries' Living Justice Living Peace Charter and through the insights and challenges brought to them by our guest speakers, Sr Brigid Arthur and Clare Bowditch. Sr Brigid works with the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project and spoke with the students about her work and the challenges that those seeking asylum face everyday. Her passion for her work is immeasurable as she provided examples of how we can bring compassion to those who are struggling.

Clare's session was entitled "Taming Your Inner Critic" and focused on overcoming the negative voices in our heads that stop us from achieving our goals. This was done

through a lens of self-compassion, allowing us to remember to care of ourselves as well as others.

The students also completed a number of activities designed to challenge their fears and problem solving skills. These included the Giant's Ladder, Canoeing and Raft Building. Students also spent time interacting with nature on bush walks and writing messages of support for one another through Affirmations. Thursday night was an opportunity for the students to let their hair down and put on their best country duds as they danced the night away in a Bush Hoedown. Students were led through a series of dances which got them laughing, talking and, of course, dancing with people who they may not otherwise hang around with.

To conclude the retreat students identified the obstacles that they need to overcome this year and these will be revisited at the end of the year. They then read the affirmations and the letters that their parents had written for them. There was barely a dry eye as we sat down to lunch.

After lunch Fr Andrew celebrated mass and blessed the students as they received their new Year 12 jumpers. After the obligatory photo shoot the students boarded the bus and headed back to Marian full of life and laughter and ready to lead the school as models of compassion.







YEAR 7S FIRST DAY





Secondary School Vaccinations in 2022

The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to Year 7 and 10 students. These vaccines provide protection against:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough
– one dose for Year 7 students
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – two doses for Year 7 students
- Meningococcal – one dose for Year 10 students

Parents/guardians of Year 7 and 10 students should look out for the vaccine consent card booklet coming home from school with your child. You need to read the information, complete and return the card regardless of whether your child is being vaccinated at school.

The Ararat Rural City immunisation service may contact you about the Secondary School Vaccine Program. Schools are authorised to provide basic parent/guardian contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school by 18 February 2022 if you do not want your contact details given to the Ararat Rural City immunisation service.

Should you require further information please contact the Maternal and Child Health Centre on 5355 0224.

Year 11 or 12 students who have missed their Meningococcal vaccine in Year 10 still have an opportunity to be vaccinated under the program. Please contact the school office to obtain a consent card.





SWIMMING CARNIVAL

BARRON KELLY SYNNOTT CLANCY

The Marian College Swimming Carnival is approaching. All students have the opportunity to choose events to enter. The aim of the carnival is for everyone to participate and enjoy themselves, and get into the spirit of their team. The keener swimmers also have the opportunity to progress to compete in the Black Ranges Swimming Championships.

- What:** Marian College Inter-House Swimming Carnival
- Date:** Wednesday 23rd February 2022
- Venue:** Ararat Outdoor Pool
- Time:** Students to meet at the pool at 8.50am.
Dismissal 3.10pm
- Clothing:** Dress in house colours or PE uniform.
- Food:** BYO lunch and drinks.
Food/drinks available for purchase from the Gardens Cafe.
- Buses:** Arrangements have been made with the Stawell and Ararat bus companies to drop off and pick up students directly to and from the Pool.
- Must bring:** Hat, sunscreen, lunch, drink, suitable swimwear, towel, warm clothes to wear between swims, all medications required including EpiPens, Asthma inhalers etc.

This is a compulsory school day.

February 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 INTERMEDIATE/ SENIOR CRICKET	8	9	10 INTERMEDIATE/ SENIOR TENNIS	11
14	15	16	17 YEAR 7 and 10 IMMUNISATIONS	18 OPENING SCHOOL MASS
21	22 SCHOOL PHOTOS	23 SWIMMING CARNIVAL	24	25

March 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
FEBRUARY 28	1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY	3	4
YEAR 7A & 7B CAMP			YEAR 7C & 7D CAMP	