From the Principal

Term 3 has started well and we are now into the third week. There are several important matters that I would like to bring to your attention.

Prayers requested
Please continue to pray for Mr Marshal McMahon, who is meeting with his doctors this week. He hasn’t been well and has had significant amount of chemotherapy treatment. Also undergoing chemotherapy is Anthony Mackett, the 2010 school captain. We pray for recovery of both these men at this critical time.

Year 11 2012 Information Night
The Year 11 2012 Information Night was held last Wednesday and I would like to thank Mr Morris, Mr Culnane and over 30 staff members who were present at the evening. It was a very worthwhile event, where parents and students were given an overview of what was expected of Year 11 students and the courses that are offered in senior school. I would appreciate any feedback from parents who attended the evening, whether they think it was worthwhile, or if it could be done differently.

World Youth Day
Best wishes to Mr Ellis, Andrew Chalouhi 11.5, Ryan Epondulan 11.2 and Stephen Samson 9.3 who leaves this coming Thursday to attend the World Youth Day ceremonies in Madrid. It will be a significant time for their faith development and we hope that it is enjoyable and a worthwhile experience for all of them.

Study skills in the 21st Century
I was reading an article recently from The National Education Magazine, April 2011. It spoke of the importance of study skills that I believe are not emphasised enough in schools and that we don’t teach the students. At Parramatta Marist, through Project Based Learning, not only do we try to teach the content at a deep level and give the students a better understanding of the meaning of the content, but we also try to develop their study skills that they will need such as collaboration, cooperation with one another through group work, critical thinking skills and communication skills.

“Because many secondary students lack sufficient study skills, some schools try to incorporate study skills in the classroom in context with the learning. Often teachers are too busy delivering the curriculum to cover study skills as well. Technology provides an on-line environment allowing teachers to keep content up-to-date instantly. Students can collaborate by contributing to share class notes on-line. Technology influences the way students study. Filing no longer only refers to paper; it includes electronic files as well. Electronic calendars, such as Microsoft Outlook, can help students to manage their time and workload. Some new study techniques inspired by technology include creating a podcast or mp3 recording to listen to and learn subject matter and test each other.”

Cadetships
Sharad Patel 12.4 and Gaby Elsusu 12.1 both received cadetships in the past week. Sharad Patel had the following to say about Project Based Learning and his experience with it and how it assisted him in obtaining the cadetship.

“Throughout the application process at various firms I had to undergo many rigorous tests and interviews of which some had durations in excess of one hour. In the interviews, the experience felt like the interviewer was trying to see whether I was worth investing in by trying to seek what I can contribute to the firm. The skills that I had attained from PBL had an astounding impression on the interviewers – in particular time management and team work. In all honesty, I believe that without the PBL experience I would have struggled to present myself in professional conduct, converse without stuttering and also confidently and proudly presenting who I am. With my strong contributions in cricket to various teams within Sydney, I was sure that the interviewers would have been impressed by my balanced lifestyle, elaborate work experience, abilities and academic record. On a final note, the extensive efforts of all PBL teachers, which often go unnoticed, deserve recognition and the prospects of Gaby Elsusu and I serve as examples of positive and successful outcomes of PBL. On behalf of my year 12 cohort I would like to thank Mr Gavin Hays and Br Patrick for their relentless efforts in the establishment of Project Based Learning.”

CSSA Exams
This week the Year 12 students commenced their Catholic Secondary Schools Association examinations that are held state wide. We wish them well in these important exams in preparation for the upcoming Higher School Certificate Exams in October. The students have worked particularly well and they are hopeful of obtaining good results.
Champions at Chess

For many centuries the game of Chess has been played for pleasure. But it is perhaps its ability to develop tactical training, concentration and patience in individuals that has made it so popular and enduring – whether for work, studies or social interaction. No other activity combines so smoothly the critical life skills of planning and setting strategies together with the capacity to suddenly adapt, set aside schemes and make modifications, whilst all the while being confronted by unexpected challenge and disappointment.

On Thursday 21st July four teams representing Years 7 to 10 travelled to Saint Dominic’s Penrith to compete in the MCS Chess Tournament hosted by the principal, Brother Jeff Regan. Eleven schools took part in this event with over two hundred players present. Our boys achieved a very close second place for the Junior Team and Second Place for the Intermediate team divisions. In addition, small medallions were given to our Runner up team.

On Wednesday 27th July four teams representing Years 7 – 10 again travelled to Penrith RSL Club to compete in the Annual Inter-Schools Chess Competition. Thirty-four schools took part, with several hundred children competing.

Fifteen boys took part in the day, designed under the Swiss system for experience more than competition. Each boy competed against older players, for example our Year 7s battled players from Years 9, 10, and 11. Despite this, an amazing thirteen of our players won the majority of their games. This resulted in a very respectable overall position at day’s end.

I believe the day’s greatest achievement came on the bus ride home when one young lad declared “The score doesn’t count. I learnt more about myself, Sir, and what I’m good at.”

**Year 7**: Jorel Mateo, Aly Merchant, Robert Pahula, Paras Jogiya

**Year 8**: Aiden Peters, Antonius Sarangaya, Carlo Tassone, Michael Cruz

**Year 9**: Michael Threlfo, Pranav Bhagwat, Sahan Gunatiaka, Keelan Tautuhi

**Year 10**: Printhan Natkunaratanm, Aaron Hugnh, Rahul Sen, Edlan Policarpio

Chess games and planning for future tournaments continue each day in the Brother Ludovic Learning centre. All are welcome as competitive or social players.

*Mr Brett Ryan*
*Chess Co-Ordinator*
The 2011 MCS Athletics Carnival was held at Sydney International Athletics Centre Warm Up track at Homebush.

The carnival provided all students who participated a great opportunity to show their skills in the area of Track and Field, and enabled the school to select an Athletics squad as strong as possible for the upcoming MCS Athletics Season.

The day started with light drizzle, and this covered the track early in the morning and with not much more rain we were set for a good day.

As always, I must thank all staff and students for their help throughout the day. Without their dedicated contributions, the carnival would not be as successful as it was.

Congratulations to the following boys for their outstanding performances on the day taking out the age champion honors.

12 Brian Epondulan
13 Marius Pascual
14 Jake Brennan
15 Dillon Khoury
16 Nathan Animakwah-Appau
17 James Younis
Opens Jake Ferguson

The MCS Athletics Carnival will be held at Sydney Olympic Park Competition track on the 18th August 2011. All boys who have been selected for the team will be announced very soon.

Mr Brad Scanlon
Sports Coordinator

Star Spot

Congratulations to Shane Cassell of 12.1 who was recently selected for the U19s NSW Cricket Team.

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You can subscribe to the Parramatta Marist Newsletter - just go to the website www.parramarist.nsw.edu.au and click on the ‘Subscribe to our Newsletter’ tab. The newsletter will be emailed to you.

L-R Shreyash Annapureddy, Dylan Blom, Abhishek Malik, Sharad Patel, Rehan Prins-Ahangangoda, Alessandro Cowley and Sr Patrick Howlett.
PMH OLD BOYS’
ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2011

Catch up with school mates & reminisce about the good old' days; plus get an update on the school.
Ex-students and teachers of Parramatta Marist High are invited to attend the annual reunion dinner and auction night. All proceeds from the night go to the Brother Coman Scholarship, which is fully funded by the Old Boys Union.

Time: Friday, October 21st 2011 at 7.00pm
Where: Wentworth Room, Parramatta Leagues Club, O'Connell St Parramatta
Cost: $50 (for buffet dinner) plus drinks
RSVP: For catering purposes, it is essential to book and pay by Friday, 7 October

Please send your cheque payable to Parramatta Marist Old Boys and place in an enclosed envelope addressed to the Secretary, Parramatta Marist Old Boys, 2 Darby Road, Westmead NSW 2145

OR

Please pay by direct deposit into the Parramatta Marist Old Boys Union. Commonwealth Bank account (BSB 062 223 Acc. No. 0080 1103). Please ensure you include your surname as a reference on the deposit and send a confirmation email (including personal details) to one of the committee members listed below

OR

Contact a committee member below to reserve your place or for further information:

Adam Hendry ahendry@parra.catholic.edu.au 9635 7066
Peter Bowd pbowd@parra.catholic.edu.au 9635 7066
Mark Currie mark.currie@team.telstra.com 0419 411 468
John Flynn flynn5@bigpond.net.au 0417 377939
Mark Procajlo mprocajlo@kempstrang.com.au 9235 2597
Stefan Procajlo stefan.procajlo@rvorg.au 9421 5345
Michael Procajlo mprocajlo@parra.catholic.edu.au 9654 2118

Please pass on this invitation to other ex-students who may not have been contacted.

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________________________
Tel: _______________________________________________________________________________
Email/Address ___________________________________________________________________________
Last Year at School: ___________________________________________________________________

☐ Enclosed is my cheque for $ _____ for the annual dinner.
☐ Please accept my donation of $ _____ towards the Brother Coman Scholarship.
☐ I can donate a raffle/auction item for the night or memorabilia.
☐ Please record my above contact details for future mailouts

This mailout is proudly sponsored by

Beilby Poulden Costello Lawyers Level 18, 201 Elizabeth Street Sydney Ph 9280-6900
Dear Parents

This year our Principal, Br Patrick Howlett, celebrates 50 years as a Marist Brother. To celebrate this auspicious occasion, Parramatta Marist High School Community has organised a Dinner at Oatlands House, Garden Suite, 42 Bettington Road, Oatlands 2117 on Friday 9 September 2011.

We extend an invitation to parents and old boys. If you would like to attend please complete the tear off slip below and forward to the school, together with payment, by Friday, 12 August 2011. Cheques should be made payable to Parramatta Marist High School. Details of the event are:

Friday 9 September 2011

Pre-dinner drinks at 7pm
Dinner at 7.30pm

Cost $90 per person

Includes

Pre-dinner drinks, antipasto platter, three course meal, beer, wine and soft drinks,
tea, coffee, port.
Music will be provided by a DJ

Br Patrick’s Anniversary Dinner

Name ______________________ Address: ______________________________
Contact Tel No.______________ Email_____________________________

I wish to purchase _____ tickets at $90 each. I attach cheque for $ _____ or charge my credit card, details below. Alternatively, ring the school on 9635 7066 to book and pay.

If paying by Credit Card please complete the following:

MASTER CARD   VISA       EXPIRY DATE:       AMOUNT: $

CARD NUMBER: _______________________________

Name on Card: ___________________________ Expiry date __________

PRINT CARD HOLDER NAME: CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE