Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Last Thursday and Friday I had the privilege of attending the annual Principals’ Master Class at Penrith. This event is a learning gathering for principals from Parramatta Diocesan schools. This year our guest speaker was Mr George Couros, the Division Principal of Innovative Teaching and Learning for Parkland School Division, Canada. Mr Couros highlighted the need for schools to embrace technology in student learning, so as to make good educational use of the global opportunities for learning which are now available to our students.

We were also privileged to hear from a number of our own principals who shared the developments in their own schools. Perhaps one of the most valuable aspects of the two days is the opportunity it extends to discuss educational issues and innovations from principals and to learn from each other.

Last week on the 15th August, we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption, where we recognize the Assumption of Mary into heaven. As a Marist community who take Mary as our model we pray:

Mary, our Mother, your total giving of yourself reminds us that we hold in trust from God our Father all our accomplishments and talents and gifts - trusted as we are to offer them in his service, and bring happiness and well-being to our brothers and sisters.

Your “Yes” to God’s invitation to be the mother of his Son reminds us that prayer is not just words but is from the heart.

We ask you to pray to Jesus for us that the Holy Spirit may live fully in us, too, so that we may pray in the way that each of us finds best.

So may we be prepared to join you in saying “Yes” to God our Father, that Jesus may be born anew in our hearts.

Amen

Over the past two weeks our Year 12 students have submitted major works for Textiles Technology, and English Extension II, and completed speaking examinations for Italian, French, Spanish and Croatian and performed individually and in groups in Drama.

Work on the netball courts is now complete and were officially opened on Monday with a Staff v Students netball match. The netball match resulted in a narrow win for the students, (but I am reliably informed that this was only because no-one remembered to keep score).

God Bless

Mrs Patricia Baker
Principal
Music, we also heard Italian music—both new and enjoyed it. Alongside listening and dancing to family opportunity to attend and all of us that did so read

Dock RSL. Students studying Italian at Cerdon got to

On Friday 26th July, Italian students from all over

which we learnt about life in Medieval Times. Overall it was a fun day in which we learned about life in Medieval Times.

Freshta Nawabi & Elizabeth Orlando

Medieval Day

On 9th August, Year 8 History students participated in Medieval Day. The day consisted of 3 presentations, ranging in topics from Heraldry and Entertainment to Medieval weapons and equipment. We were asked to dress up in Medieval Costumes and participated in the best dressed parade.

We also brought in a medieval feast to experience how people in Medieval Europe ate. Overall it was a fun day in which we learnt about life in Medieval Times.

Natalie El-Helou and Aneesa Eldick

Ballo Italiano

On Friday 26th July, Italian students from all over Sydney came together for a fun, Italian-themed dance at Five Dock RSL. Students studying Italian at Cerdon got the opportunity to attend and all of us that did so really enjoyed it. Alongside listening and dancing to familiar music, we also heard Italian music—both new and traditional. We’ve all made new friends from different schools across Sydney and it was a fantastic experience.

Jamie Lipsham and Elizabeth Orlando (Year 9)

The National Science Youth Forum

The National Science Youth Forum is a multi-stage program which aims to empower students to plan their future with greater confidence. The residential program, supported by Rotary, provides students with amazing experiences, opportunities and connections in the world of science. The standard of applicants is always very high, and this year NYSF received four times the amount of applications for every place available. I am very pleased to announce that Mym Tran from Year 11 was successful in her application. Mym’s scientific interest is Nanobots and for her outstanding efforts she will be enjoying the NYSF program in Perth in 2014. We look forward to hearing about her amazing experience.

EVATT Competition

On Friday August 16, eight students from Year 11 participated in the Penrith’s round of the EVATT competition. This debating and diplomacy competition places young Australians in the shoes of the UN Security Council representatives, making them debate on issues of international security, human rights and current affairs. Students work in teams, debate, amend and vote on resolutions prepared from the perspective of one of the Security Council’s member states. This is a new competition for our school, but our girls rose to the challenge and performed admirably. Congratulations to Kim Do, Anique Edye, Eliza Dennis, Jessica Issa, Evanna Kamal, Nivaaz Sehmbhi, Tanvi Sreedhar for such a fantastic effort.

The Cerdon College Knowledge Challenge

The library was buzzing this week with teams battling it out to become the Year 8 CCKC champions. This challenge is an inter-house competition with students representing their house and answering questions on many areas including maths, science, literature, history, geography, the arts, philosophy and current affairs.

The competition was very fierce, with all the houses represented at semi-finals level. The grand final, also a very close contest, was between Marcellin and Collin. Congratulations to Annmarea Kenny, Thy Mai, Tran Pham and Emily Stoove from Collin for making the grand final and in particular Anadora Alejo, Theresa Nguyen, Chelsea McIntyre and Rachel Woeilt from Marcellin for winning the 2013 Year 8 Knowledge Challenge.

CSU Creative Writing Competition

CSU is offering students aged 16-18 the opportunity to participate in the CSU Creative Writing Competition. Students are asked to submit a creative writing piece (story, poem, script, blog, etc.) of no more than 1000 words exploring one or more of the competition themes: Family values, cultural experiences or social challenges. Further information is available on www.csu.edu.au/cws. The competition closes September 20, 2013.

Write 4 Fun Schools Writing Competition

Students all over Australia are invited to enter their short stories OR poems, and battle it out for some great prizes on offer. There is no theme or topic for either pieces of writing. The competition is open to all students K-12. For further entry details visit www.write4fun.net. The competition closes September 13, 2013.

Trop Jr. 2013

Modeled on the world’s largest film festival, Tropfest, JR Tropfest is a short film making competition for students aged 15 years and under. Films need to be made especially for the competition, be no longer than 7 minutes and include the Trop Jr Signature Item for 2013, which is, ‘MONSTER’. For further information and entry details visit tropjr.com

Women in Engineering

Applications are currently open for students interested in a residential program which aims to inform and inspire young women into careers in Engineering. Students in Years 10 and 11 with a genuine interest in problem solving, enjoy lateral thinking and creative ideas who have an aptitude for maths and science, are encouraged to apply. This experience is offered at two NSW universities.

University of Wollongong: Women in Engineering Summit January 13-17, 2014

For further information visit http://www.uow.edu.au/future/wiesummit/index.html

Applications close August 31, 2013

University of NSW: Women in Engineering Camp (WIEC) January 13-17, 2014

For further information visit www.eng.unsw.edu.au/WIEC

Applications close September 29, 2013.

For further information on these or any other enrichment opportunities please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

Mrs Sonya Agius, Enrichment Co-ordinator
PDHPE and Sport Report

PDSSSC Dance Competition

On Friday 16th August, 60 students from Cerdon College showcased a variety of performances at the PDSSSC dance competition at the Joan Sutherland Centre, Penrith. The girls have been training since the beginning of the year and all their hard work paid off with some fantastic achievements across a variety of dance styles. A special congratulations to Rachael Vella who placed first in the Junior solo category and Geraldina Hnitko who placed third in the Senior solo category. Our team results were just as impressive. 

Hip Hop A: 2nd Place

Danielle Galluccio, Tiana Roccisano, Olivia Townsend, Rachael Vella, Nicole O’Connor, Alana Blazevic and Angela Pham. (Coached by Year 11 students Danielle Galluccio and Tiana Roccisano)

Hip Hop B

Francesca Fidanza, Priscilla Tannous, Josele Mallari, Regie Anne Gardoce, Mia Aquilina, Sarah Duruchukwu, Valentina Bajraktarevic, Jessica Adamson, Natayla Jozic and Amy Camilleri

Jazz A: 2nd Place

Danielle Galluccio, Nichole Vella, Olivia Townsend, Rachael Vella, Nicole O’Connor, Alana Blazevic, Danielle Gilarte, Chloe Chatten, Alexandra Boutouibia and Leanne Purkis. (Coached by Mrs Sharp)

Jazz B: 4th Place

Tayla Noble, Ciara O’Kane, Angela Pham, Rochelle Salatino, Amy Townsend, Theresa Heness, Jessica Adamson and Francesca Fidanza (Coached by Ms Murfet)

Contemporary A: 3rd Place

Tayla Noble, Leanne Purkis, Angela Pham, Danielle Gilarte, Nichole Vella, Amy Camilleri, Alana Blazevic, Nicole O’Connor, Olivia Townsend and Rachael Vella (Coached by Ms Murfet)

Contemporary B: 4th Place

Francesca Fidanza, Rochelle Salatino, Chloe Chatten, Stephanie Cassar, Theresa Heness, Valentina Bajraktarevic, Vanessa Madeleine, Maddison Temple-Twindley, Kylah Beshara, Priscilla Tannous, Sarah Duruchukwu and Ciara O’Kane. (Coached by Mrs Sharp)

Aneesa Eldick, Rochelle Salatino, Julia Achmar, Emma Awad and Kiranpreet Kohli (Coached by ex student Synthia Sahay)

Cultural B: 4th Place

Saffie Johnny-Moore, Veisinia Mafi, Tatiana Abi Nader, Chloe Aflak, Sarah Diab, Faid Ahmad and Melissa Aoun (Coached by Ms Mahrous)

We achieved the second highest overall point score of the day- only two points from being the champion school! This is an impressive achievement, as we competed against nine Parramatta Diocesan schools. A special mention to Ms Mahrous and Ms Murfet who assisted backstage for the day, Mrs Gallina who assisted the judge with providing feedback to the schools and Miss Parker who supervised the students. A big thank you to the twenty Year 11 Entertainment students who assisted with a variety of duties including lighting, sound, backstage assistance, photographing the event and ushering guests. Also a thank you to Mr Zammit for his assistance and organisation leading up to the event. I look forward to reporting on our final event for the year- the Ultimate Dance Challenge.

Year 11 Entertainment students:

Brigette Aleksander, Isabella Casaruso, Mia Chessari, Atoug Deng, Emma Douglas, Rochelle Elegado, Antoinette Finianos, Christina Guarrera, Angela Ha’Angana, Cheyenne Hancock, Rochelle Hyeraci, Sophia Justo, Snigdha Mehta, Christie Nguyen, Neneh Odo, Amy Pankiw, Ileana Pavisa, Suzannette Perez, Vanessa Raslan and Precious Siziba. (Coached by Ms Sharp)

NSWCCC Netball

After our spirited showing at PDSSSC Netball Championships last month, the College Netball squads returned to Jamison Park Penrith on Wednesday August 19 for the NSWCCC Netball Championships. All players contributed their best effort and played a number of tight matches, however, the strong opposition at the Gala Day prevented our squads from progressing into the finals. Whilst there were many great individual performances on the day, it was the cooperation and camaraderie amongst the players that was most impressive. Congratulations to the following students for representing the College with pride:

Year 7-8 Squad: Shiarna Tarasenko, Amy Sustek Christina Mafi, Lavinia Fua, Summer-Cheyenne Phillips, Isabella Matsias, Julia Achmar, Louise O’Neill, Shushanwewee Hancock, Bridget Newman, Catherine Raftopolous

Year 9-10 Squad: Valentina Bajraktarevic, Megan Cuskey, Rebecca Chamoun, Noomi Amosa, Alicia Allan, Rachael Vella, Rachel Lockhart, Alana Lee, Rebekah Russell

Year 11-12 Squad: Sarah Abraham, Tracey Abraham, Maddison Thompson, Kirsty Benoit, Daniella Stamandinoli, Melina Leonella, Tiana Culpeper, Nivaz Sehmbhi, Cheyenne Hancock

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Christina El Khouri, who assisted the coaches and Corinne Irish, Sarah Abraham, Tracey Abraham and Cheyenne Hancock who umpired on the day. Both students willingly offered their services and should be commended for conducting themselves very professionally on the day. Many thanks to Miss Hanson, Miss Meduri and Miss Brewer for organising, preparing and coaching the teams.

Staff Vs Students Netball

To celebrate the opening of the brand new Multipurpose Courts at the College, the Staff challenged the students to a game of Netball. In front of a large crowd, the students recorded a narrow victory, however, the match was a “see sawing” affair that kept all in attendance on the edge of their seats! Many thanks to all players involved and to Mrs Stringer and Sarah Morosin for their astute umpiring throughout the match. There were many star performers in the game and we look forward to the next Staff vs Students event. The new Multipurpose Courts will provide a range of opportunities for our students in the sports of Netball, Basketball and Tennis and we are very privileged to have such a great new facility at the College.

Mr R Zammit, PDHPE/Sport Co-ordinator
Catholic Education Office News

This newsletter is also publicising another initiative of the Australian Bishops - The Australian Catholic Youth Festival to be held in Melbourne from 4th - 8th December. All secondary schools in the Diocese will send students to this festival. Miss Rebecca Hanson has agreed to accompany our eight Year 10 students to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne. Thank you to Miss Hanson for her generosity. The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is an exciting and unique faith event in the life of the Catholic Church and Youth Ministry in Australian and will see over 3000 young people gather together to celebrate their faith.

Hunter Valley Winery Day Tour: 14 September

Bookings close on 26 August for this coach-driven tour of Hunter Valley wineries to raise funds for Project Ten: 2003-2013, a program of major works in St Patrick’s Cathedral precinct. Itinerary includes visits to some of the family-owned wineries operating in the region. Departures will be from Penrith and Seven Hills at 6:45 am, returning at 7:00 pm. It is great value at $65 for adults and $35 concession. Book tour seat with Helen Howard tel (02) 8838 3403, hhoward@parra.catholic.org.au.

Uniform Shop Trading Hours

**TERM 1**
Monday and Wednesday 8:00 am—2:00 pm

**TERM 2**
Mondays only from 27 May
8:00 am—2:00 pm

**TERM 3**
Monday 8:00 am—2:00 pm

**TERM 4**
Monday and Wednesday 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Telephone enquiries can be made to the College Uniform Shop during opening hours on 0419 403 901. The Shop is unable to be contacted via the College office number at present. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Uniform Shop Management
Telephone: 0419 403 901

Faith in Marriage

A Conference about Marriage for Couples
Sunday 19th September 2013 • 8:45am - 5:00pm
Our Lady of Mercy College, Ross Street Parramatta

The gifts and graces of marriage give us great hope and strength for ourselves and our society. Speakers share their insights, observations and experiences for building and enriching marriages.

**PROGRAM**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:45 - 09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 - 09:30</td>
<td>Opening Paper and Welcome by Fr Tim Alberga</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 - 10:15</td>
<td>Question and Answer Sessions with Professors Sharpley, Gerken and Corgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 - 10:45</td>
<td>Keynote address by Associate Professor Dr Rose Mansfield, College of Catholic Theology, “The deeper meaning of love in marriage”</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Catholic Marriage Mass in St Patricks Cathedral with Bishop Anthony Fisher OP</td>
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<td>12:00 - 1:15pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:30 - 2:30</td>
<td>Keynote address by Fr Peter O’Connor “The Church’s understanding of relationship and marriage”</td>
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<td>3:00 - 4:30</td>
<td>Panel Discussion: Pillars of Marriage Panel: Dr. Paul O’Connor, Fr Peter O’Connor, Monsignor John O’Brien</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 - 5:00</td>
<td>Closing and Prayer</td>
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**Cost:** $65 per couple or $25 for an individual (Bookings close 5 Sept 2013)

To register: email marriage@css.org.au or phone 02 4715 4023 by 16th August 2013

**css.org.au**