

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE 14 December 2011

MARIAN IN 2012

You may like to know how things are going towards 2012 for Marian College.

Students finished up with a very positive junior prize-giving and leavers' ball for Year 13 and their families.

Staff spent the week of 5 December packing, culling and sorting resources at both St Bede's and North Parade. In addition much planning and work towards standards alignment for NCEA was completed. Staff had an initial social function with Catholic Cathedral College staff.

On the 9 December St Bede's hosted a liturgy of farewell and gala breakfast for theirs and the Marian staff. Gifts were gratefully exchanged. Marian left a wall plaque commemorating our presence in 2011 and a framed photo of some of the many Marian and Bede's brothers and sisters. In addition, the college was able to gift St Bede's a reproduction of an ikon lithograph held by Marian College of Our Lady dated from the Middle Ages that the Pope at that time had given to Bishop Pompallier who left it with the Marist Fathers. The ikon had disappeared from their premises in Wellington. The ikon copy was given as a memento of our time with St Bede's in their centenary year.

Meanwhile, back with the movers, all our contents and the administration hub have been moved from St Bede's. The administration hub buildings are now on site at Barbadoes St being readied for other school uses in 2012. Most contents have now been returned to North Parade. The school contents at North Parade have been culled, sorted and packed. Those in the F block have been moved elsewhere on site there.

CERA have moved into the F block and common room at North Parade. This is their East Christchurch office and staff room. An interim septic system is in place with a tank in the swimming pool for their use. The balance of Marian College buildings have been fenced off.

At present work continues intensely at Barbadoes St: gibbing, painting, installing pinboards, walls, whiteboards, ICT, walkways, signage, window coverings, floorcoverings etc. The Marian College Board of Trustees is funding pinboards, whiteboards including interactive ones, upgrade of the gym floor finish etc, signage and window coverings. The proprietor covers the many other costs.

In January, in stages from mid to the end of January, the furniture, shelving and finally contents from North Parade will be moved to Barbadoes St and installed. Staff will unpack the week of 30 January. We hope to move into the classrooms, hall and administration area from 30 January.

We have been grateful for some grants received: from Rotary for teacher work desks (most of ours were inbuilt at North Parade), and from the Ulysses Club for ICT upgrade in the languages room.

STAFF NEWS

Staff committees have continued their work to prepare for a whole school orientation the week of 7 February. The house group committee has upgraded the programme for house groups to better reflect 'the Marian College way'. The social sciences department has developed a unit of work on the history of our school. Another staff group is working on matters related to our 30th anniversary next year

since becoming Marian College from the amalgamation of St Mary's College and McKillop College in 1982. Some lovely surprises are planned for us by the staff environment committee.

In terms of staff changes, the college has farewelled fixed term staff: Mrs McGlashan in learning support, Mrs Maddison in music and Mrs Clark in religious education. Permanent staff to leave us are Mrs Pestell from foods, who is moving from Christchurch, and pastoral chaplain, Trish O'Donnell, who is going into a period of sabbatical and new work.

Next year I will be on sabbatical in term two, deferred from term two in 2011. The plan is to consider ways that special character is fostered in Josephite and Mercy schools, and to see at how schools are working to improve achievement for their Maori and Pacific students. I will incidentally also look at ways that post-modern schools are being designed, in case we end up with a rebuild rather than a repair of our own school.

ADIEU TO 2011

This has been a very hard year for Christchurch including for our families and our school. All are to be commended for their resilience, perseverance and commitment to keeping the college going, and showing *faith in our future* that is so much part of how we have been this year and will be next year.

EVENTS IN 2012

The school office is open daily 8am to 4pm on weekdays at 122 Barbadoes St to 22 December; and likewise from 16 to 27 January 8am to 4pm. Phone 03 385 8449; email: exec@mariancollege.school.nz.

The senior team is busy planning our coming year calendar. A term one calendar is included with this mailout for your fridge door or pinboard.

At this stage we can advise you of these key events in **February**:

Friday 10 February 8.45am powhiri of welcome to the Barbadoes St. New families, new staff and new students will have a special welcome.

Saturday 11 February 10am, Year 13, 2011 catch up breakfast in Xavier Hall

Sunday 12 February 1.30pm, Hikoī Tapu (pilgrimage) from North Parade site, via St Mary's College, St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, John MacKillop's grave in Barbadoes St Cemetery to our new site at Barbadoes St. We will carry some item/s of religious significance to our new site. Cuppa to follow in Xavier Hall. All Marian College families and friends invited.

Monday 13 February, swimming sports at Rangiora pool, morning.

Thursday 16 February 5 to 6pm, time for current Marian families to tour our school at Barbadoes St for the first time.

Monday 20 February, athletics sports day. Families welcome.

Tuesday 21 February 9am, Opening Mass in Xavier Hall. All welcome.

Tuesday 21 February 7.30pm, new families meeting in Xavier Hall.

May you all have a happy, holy and peace-filled Christmas. We look forward to your safe return in 2012.

Every blessing
Anna Heffernan (Ms)
Principal, Marian College

