What a wild week it has been! Firstly, let’s spare a thought and a prayer for all those caught in the wake of Cyclones Lam and Marcia. No doubt many of you would have connections with family and friends affected by the cyclones. It seems at this stage that loss of life and injury to people and animals has been kept to a minimum. Thank goodness! But there is still incredible damage across huge areas of the central coast and northern parts of the country! I read somewhere last the weekend that 56 schools had suffered damaged from the force of Cyclone Marcia alone. I can’t imagine the difficulties faced by the students, parents and staff in those schools, especially at this crucial time of the year.

As we gathered last Friday morning for our ‘Prayer in the Quad’ we reflected on the many riches we have – the love of family, wonderful educational opportunities, freedom and so much more. As we prayed together and listened to God’s word we realised too that we have the means and capacity to share some of what we have. Mrs Evans asked us all to think hard about times when we could have been more honest, more caring, a little kinder or more thoughtful.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday. At Mass we were marked with the sign of ashes on our foreheads - an outward sign of our failures and sinfulness. When we gathered in prayer just two days later it was clear to me that the whole school community was reflecting on what this means to us and how each of us can respond to God’s call throughout Lent.

This coming Friday we want to put our Lenten thoughts into action with a Coloured Sock Day. Our collective action will raise hundreds of dollars for Caritas if every student participates and contributes a gold coin to the cause.

The Family Night was a great success! Blessed with a beautiful evening families gathered to share a meal and get to know one another. The highlights of the night were the primary disco and secondary social. The younger students danced themselves into a frenzy! Even some mums, dads, nans and teachers shook it up a little! The older students (Yr. 7-10) had a great night at their first social for the year with the ‘masquerade’.

Many thanks to those staff who stayed on until 9.30pm to supervise.
Most mornings I observe the activity in the parish car park and am pleased to witness parents and carers observing the safety protocols. A few reminders for all users of this car park:

Drop offs in the car park are not permitted under any circumstances. PLEASE... no dropping off near the gate in the parish car park. This does not guarantee your child’s safety. It is much safer to park and deliver your child to the yard.

If you do not wish to leave the car when dropping off your child please be mindful of where you park and what you say to your child. We all need to remember BIG cars do not always see little children!

Some helpful hints:
- If you park on the church side of the parish car park, your child can get out of the car and walk into the school via the lawn or along the church yard pathways.
- If you park in Crawford St it is quite safe for your child to walk into school either through the church yard or along the Crawford St path and then into the school at the entrance near the crossing.
- Parking in the angle parking zone in High St allows your child to get out of the car and walk along the path until he/she enters the gate.

Staff Car Park (off High Street)

This car park is accessed via High St (near the temporary fencing) and students are not permitted to use this area for a pick up or as a thoroughfare. Some parents park on the street near that drive but students are required to exit the school at the gate that is close to the primary playground.

Year 10 Leadership Camp

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit last week to the Yr. 10 camp at Phillip Island. A wide range of leadership activities made the camp a strong bonding experience for all students and staff.

Thank You!

In recent editions of the Marian I outlined some of the important safety rules surrounding the use of playground equipment. This has been followed up at school with teachers and students talking explicitly about what is safe and what is not. Knowing that parents have read the Marian and are supporting our safety protocols is a great support to all staff. THANK YOU!!

Mr Peter Kelly
Only 4 weeks left in the term and our first holidays! How time flies when you’re having fun!

Our Preps have had a few tears and some ‘I miss Mum’, but by the end of the day, all have been busy learning with books, hands-on activities, iPads, group work, discussions, cutting, questioning, sorting, eating and playing. They are getting to know each other and Kerrie and I are thrilled with the way they are immersing themselves in their first year of formal learning. They show this by the way they start the day – being at school on time, unpacking unassisted, remembering their Take Home Folder and reading the readers. They then settle in readiness for prayer. It is wonderful to see many new participants in Morning Prayer thanking God for something in their lives.

Thank you to all parents for coming in on Wednesdays for your child’s Literacy Assessment. This assessment allows us to organising a program best suited to your child’s needs.

Preps enjoyed their final Wednesday at home yesterday. These days allowed them to recuperate, relax and re-energise in readiness for the rest of the week.

—from Monday 2nd March, all Preps will be attending school 5 days a week.

Shrove Tuesday – JP’s had an experience of making pancakes last Tuesday. They used this experience to then sequence a procedure. This, of course, wasn’t nearly as much fun as EATING the pancakes with lemon and sugar or maple syrup carefully cooked by our wonderful parents Thresa, Dee, Gail and Cassie. Thank you.

Last Wednesday, I was present at our beautiful Ash Wednesday Mass, led by Monsignor Toms. Whilst I was sitting amongst the Grade 1 & 2’s, I noticed a young girl tug at the sleeve of a teacher. Mons had just finished explaining that the ashes were the result of burning Palm Sunday palms and would be placed on everyone’s forehead, when this student asked ‘Are the ashes going to be hot or cold?’ She has been taught well about the dangers of hot ashes!!

Our Family ‘Meet & Greet’ evening was a fabulous event last night. It is always a wonderful, informal occasion parents and staff to catch up and have a chat. The disco is always a hit and with this cooler weather, children managed to dance for even longer!

Just a reminder – Several classes are waiting on the return of updated medical verification forms. Please return them as soon as possible to ensure that we are best prepared for your child’s needs.

What’s happening in our classrooms:-

JP – All Junior Primary students are enjoying our Inquiry unit – ‘How does my garden grow?’. In recent weeks we have watched seeds germinate in their own little Sprout Houses, learnt that plants need sun, air and water to survive (and even the fact that the amount can vary for each plant), conducted an experiment using celery, carnations and food dye that demonstrates how water travels through a plant. With help from Mr Andrew Allen, a plot is being prepared for the planting of tomatoes, watermelon radish and lettuces, just near our classrooms. Thank you Mr Allen. JP-C & JP-L are also preparing a plot near SP-K. Watch this space!!

MP – Middle Primary students have settled into a routine, involving weekly homework and reading. Thank you for your support in this area.
In Inquiry we are pondering on the question *How Can I be An Active Citizen?* and *What does Our St Mary’s Community Need?*. We have been working on our understanding of counting and number patterns in Mathematics and finding inference in pictures and written texts.

Congratulations to our many wonderful swimmers who have performed so well and have been helpful and co-operative at the carnivals. Congratulations to those involved in the District Swimming competition and Age Champions Jordyn Beattie, Nicholas Wyllie and Stephanie Millard.

Preps received their ‘Welcome to School’ Certificates from their Year 10 Buddies at Monday’s Level Assembly.

No nerves could be noticed in our confident youngest students as they walked towards the stage.

There will be other occasions throughout the year for Preps to spend time getting to know their Buddies.

A reminder that Prep-4 is nut free. If you are unsure of an item, please clarify your concern with your classroom teacher. Our students are our best reminder about nut products, with three students coming to me in recent days questioning an item in their lunch box, prior to opening it. Well done!

On Monday, Prep-Year 6 had a delightful and insightful Indigenous Incursion. Sean Choolburra, who has not only travelled Australia, but also many parts of the world, entertained us with traditional dance, music, stories, fire creation and other cultural aspects such as body painting and costume. He left many students wanting to know more about Indigenous culture. Thank you Mrs Hogan for organizing it. It was fantastic!!

Here are some recounts from Middle Primary …

‘The talent Sean had was so cool. I could see that he was honest. I heard he is a fair man. He had lots of stories to tell. I loved the way Sean made the torch light up. It was like magic! He played the didgeridoo as well as telling us a stories about nature and his land’. Jacinta Raymond

‘Today an indigenous man came and showed us some incredible things. His name was Sean and he originally comes from Townsville, Queensland. He told us a story about a frill necked lizard and the grass skirt. He even showed us some awesome dance and how to make fire with sticks. It was like magic. I was amazed at what Sean had been doing all his life, including travelling the world’. Sophie Conroy

‘I felt amazed and nervous. I liked Sean’s dances. My favourite was about a scrub hen that was making a nest on a mountain. There was also a dance about the origins of a frilled neck lizard. He made fire by rubbing sticks together and then he spun it around and it lit up’. Jack Heath

‘We went to the Multipurpose Hall and saw a performer named Sean. He had body paint on and a grass skirt. He played a song on the didgeridoo. It sounded great because he changed the sounds a lot. He told us the story about his grass skirt and how a little girl dipped it in the honey. The story made me feel excited about the rest of his performance. He then danced a bird dance and flicked leaves up with his feet’. Brielle Hammond

**Prep Afternoon Tea: Wednesday 4th March, JP-S Classroom (2.15pm)**

All welcome (including siblings of course!)

Until next fortnight, continue to ACT JUSTLY, SHOW RESPECT and DO OUR BEST. If you have any concerns or questions, please don’t hesitate to see your classroom teacher or myself – you know I love visitors!

Mrs Anne Spencer: P-4 Co-ordinator
Our Positive Behaviour Goal for this term is:
... ‘Be organised and ready to learn’

Our term goal in Years 5-7 is about being prepared and ready for learning. This involves your child being on time in the mornings for school and ready to settle into the school day. Our teachers are ready and prepared to greet them in the classrooms from 8.40am with a warm and happy smile.

Welcome! We are happy to congratulate the following students who have made a wonderful start to the year and received an award at our Level Assembly this week. Well done Roi Indich-Navon, Eden Cater, Jack Christie, Tom Allen, Ellie Cliff, Temisha Griffiths, Hugh Smith, Alanah O'Connell, Jonathan Moore, Darcy Gleeson and Brayden Deacon Stock. The awards were given for various reasons, but the most common was being ready for learning and living out our school TAG through their words and actions. It is pleasing to see all our students have settled into their new school year with confidence and contentment. We especially welcome all our new friends and make them feel welcomed and part of the St. Mary's community.

Congratulations also go to our Senior Primary students who made it through to District Swimming yesterday. Well done Roi Indich Roi Indich Roi Indich Roi Indich - Navon, Eden Cater, Jack Christie, Tom Allen, Navon, Eden Cater, Jack Christie, Tom Allen, Navon, Eden Cater, Jack Christie, Tom Allen, Navon, Eden Cater, Jack Christie, Tom Allen.

Our Year 7’s participated in their Reflection Day today and this was a huge success. The students were overwhelmed by our theme “Time2Connect”. The day gave them an opportunity to stop and reflect on their own connections with their families, friends, school and wider community, even our global communities in need overseas. Our Year 7’s along with the Senior Primary classes will be placing an emphasis on raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves through Project Compassion this term. We encourage all our families to support their child’s efforts to ‘make a difference’ during this time of Lent.

Our Year 7’s have their Camp on 18th – 20th March at Great Aussie Holiday Park. We ask that you fill out the medical and permission forms carefully and return these back to school by NO LATER THAN MARCH 2nd. We are looking forward to the time away to further develop our friendships and ‘connections’ with one another.

Our Senior Primary Camp this year is to Canberra on 18th – 22nd May. More details will follow, but we thank those parents who have expressed an interest to come along as a volunteer. You will be notified within the next couple of weeks with details if you have been successful. Thank again for your support.

Just a few reminders in general in regards to uniform and procedures. If your child is absent, please write a note to give to the classroom teacher the next day. Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform each day and only be in their sport uniform on allocated sport days. We also need to follow our Sunsmart policy and ensure hats are worn outside during break times and sports days. A gentle reminder to your child to make sure they have their school hat with them each day in their bag or left at school would be best practice. Encourage your child to keep a regular ‘homework routine’ at home. As the year progresses, they will find themselves very busy with tasks to be completed at home, especially our Year 7’s.

Reminder: Sports Days: Senior Primary classes are either MONDAY or FRIDAY depending on the class. Year 7’s day is FRIDAY.

We will have Homework Club commencing next week on Monday and Wednesdays. This gives our students the opportunity to complete tasks during a lunchtime, especially if they are struggling to complete tasks at home. Please encourage your child to attend. We also have a Maths Club, where our Maths staff are happy to assist any student who would like extra help with their Maths. This will be each Thursday during a lunchtime.

Please ensure you discuss these matters with your child and contact classroom teachers if you have further queries or myself.

Many Thanks.

Ms Zine Dovara: 5-7 Level Co-ordinator
**Yr. 8-10 News**

What a great celebration our first level assembly was on Monday February 23rd.

Our year ten students welcomed all the new prep students by presenting them each with a certificate. The heavens opened right at the start of the assembly and there was much excitement watching the storm outside. When the rain subsided and we could hear Mr Kelly on the microphone, the ceremony began. Well done to the Year Tens who carried out this role in a friendly, mature manner. Sometimes the height difference was hysterical and some of the preps were slightly overawed by the size of their Year Ten buddy!

Last week our Year Ten students experienced their three day Leadership camp at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort near Cowes. Their days were spent being active in various team building and leadership activities and on Thursday night they were privileged to listen to a local guest speaker, Megan Ryan, who shared her experiences of volunteering overseas in Nepal with our students. The highlight of the camp was definitely the surfing lesson at the infamous Smith’s Beach. Surprisingly all students were out of bed and in the dining room for breakfast by 6.30am which indicates how excited they were. By 8am we were all on the beach and the instructors were in charge of the keen would be surfers. Please note - they were lucky enough to be instructed by two former Australian and Victorian champion surfers – Mal Gregson (Australian Senior Mens Champion and Coach of the Australian Team) and Francis Meade (Under 18 Victorian Champion). Congratulations to all students on your wonderful participation and positive behavior on this camp – huge thank you to staff who also attended – Mr Gary Hawkey, Mrs Tanya Oakley, Mr Brian O’Dwyer and Mr Peter Kelly who had a swim in the ocean but piked out of the surfing lesson! So did all the other staff as well!!

Mrs Genevieve Gordon (Maths teacher) has reported our Year Ten students who are studying VCE General Maths are all working hard. All students are aware of the expectations of doing this subject and are applying themselves well in these sessions. Keep up the good work!

A message from Mr David Carter our Technology guru that all our Year 8 students are embracing their new Macbook Air laptops and he is very happy with the way they are using them to enhance their learning. Well done!

Our Year Eight students all visited the Queen Victoria Market and an Indonesian restaurant last week as part of their Indonesian Language studies. More in next week’s Marian.

On Wednesday 11th March our Year 8 students will be heading off to Hall’s Gap for their three day camp. All students are expected to attend and the venue offers many activities and opportunities for our students to participate in and improve their teamwork and leadership skills. The scenery surrounding this camp is amazing and the walk to Boronia Peak is definitely the highlight of this camp.

Our Sporting News this week is to congratulate the following students…

- **Courtney Aldous** (Year 10) who last weekend played for Seymour Blasters under 18 Ladies Team in a tournament at Traralgon.

They were victorious and are now the Victorian under 18 Premiers and Champions.

Great effort Courtney and well deserved as you are a disciplined and dedicated sportswoman who trains hard!!
Congratulations to the following students who are playing in the under 14 Seymour Cricket Association Grand Final this weekend at Kilmore against Kilmore – Jye Black, Jacob Doyle, Madison Alders, Courtney Jones, Corey Jones, Dean Oakley, Timothy Potts, Samuel Tang, Ben Tipping, and Riley West. Good luck and great to see some girls in the team!!

Just a reminder that Homework Club will begin next week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunchtimes so take advantage of this opportunity if you need to.

Our Parent/Student/Teacher meetings were very successful and lines of communication have now been set up. Please feel free to email or ring your child’s subject and homeroom teacher if you have any enquiries or questions about your son/daughter and their progress.

Our Family Picnic Night was held last night followed by our Primary and Secondary Socials!! Our Social Leaders Talia Giampietro, Aleesha Grieve and Lachlan Kirk have been working hard creating posters and encouraging everyone to dress up in a “Masquerade” theme and attend this fun night. Great effort!

Don’t forget...

Our Term Four Focus is:

... ‘Commit to a Goal’

Reminder: **Sports Uniform** in our level is only to be worn on Physical Education days which are:

- Year 10: **Tuesday**
- Year 8: **Wednesday**
- Year 9: **Thursday**; Our Year 9 students are also allowed wear their sports uniform on Wednesdays, when they are at school for their Beyond4Walls program.

This year, the **Year 10’s** went on a camp to **Philip Island**. We stayed at the Philip Island Adventure Resort and had lots of fun. We were put together for team activities which included a giant swing, canoeing, twin flying fox, crate climbing, team rescue, beach activities such as surfing, and spent a lot of free time together. During these activities, all year 10’s bonded happily for our last year together. We enjoyed all activities but mostly surfing and the giant swing. These activities were new to us and we were happy we had the confidence to overcome our fears. The adrenaline is what made it enjoyable and exciting. During our free time, most people played table tennis and we all played fairly and gained some terrific skills. Although surfing was super fun we had to wake up at 5 am and be at the beach at 7 am. A 1 hour lesson and 2 hours in the waves really woke us up and gave us enough energy for the rest of the day, even though everyone slept on the 3 hour bus ride home. This camp was one of the best by far and so fantastic to participate in.

Thank you to all the teachers who attended this camp and encouraged us to involve ourselves in all activities. We want to especially thank Mr Kelly for getting to Phillip Island in time for an Ash Wednesday liturgy.

By Aleesha Grieve and Talia Giampietro
This year for our year ten camp, we went to Phillip Island for three days. We did all types of activities, such as the GIANT swing, flying fox, canoeing, and plenty more fun things including surfing! These were based at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort and at the famous Smiths Surf Beach. We had a dining room, which we were in for lunch, dinner, breakfast and just if we wanted to hang out and relax. One night some of the boys went down to the dining room for a drink (hot chocolates and bikkies) and Mr. Kelly caught us, then joined in on the fun and we had some good chats lol. Our favorite activities were the giant swing and surfing we had bucket loads of fun!

We would like to thank the teachers for taking us to camp and waking us up at 5:45 for surfing: Mr. Kelly, Mr. Hawkey, Mrs Tampion, Mr. O’Dwyer, Mrs. Oakley.

By Jonty Sutherland and Aidan McSpeerin

Work Requirements Due

Yr.9: RE: Catherine McAuley Reflection Task.

Yr.10: RE: Presentations begin 23/2
VCE Maths: Arithmetic & Ratios Homework Sheet – due

Students in Year 10 Humanities have been looking at building a sustainable world as part of our Environmental Movement unit. This is an image of what the 10-O class would like to see in an ideal world.

David Carter: Yr 10 Humanities Teacher

Mrs Mary Tampion: 8-10 Level Co-ordinator

Yr.9 ‘B4W’ Program

‘Out & About’ This Term

Yr.9: Yr.9: Yr.9: Yr.9: RE: Catherine McAuley Reflection Task.

Yr.10: Yr.10: Yr.10: Yr.10: RE: Presentations begin 23/2
VCE Maths: Arithmetic & Ratios Homework Sheet – due

Year 9 students have begun The B4W program with great enthusiasm. During the first week, we complemented our work in Humanities and RE by completing Aboriginal dot paintings. Week 2 began with a shared breakfast before students went to the indoor pool and attempted a raft-building task aimed at promoting teamwork and problem solving. In our third week of B4W, we participated in a variety of team-building and problem solving games before walking along the Goulburn River bike track to take photographs and to see an Aboriginal scar tree. This week we learned some hip-hop dance moves courtesy of instructor Arch Illias.

On 4th March, we will be heading to Melbourne for the first of our city orientation trips. Students gather at the Seymour Station between 8:30 and 9:00 before boarding the 9:14 train for Southern Cross. Once in the city, we will complete a number orientation activities while visiting some of the historic churches of Melbourne. We will remain as a single group for this activity. Students will return to the Seymour Station at 5:00pm.

B4W Team
**Education in Faith & School Community**

**Caritas Coloured Sock Day**

**Friday 27th February**

**Wear Coloured Socks**

**Bring A Gold Coin Donation**

**Project Compassion**

As discussed in last week’s Marian, we are making a special effort during Lent to support Caritas Australia. Last Friday, we gathered as a whole College community outside the art room to mark the first Sunday of Lent. Led by our College Captains and Mrs. Gough, it was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the reading of Jesus’ time in the desert and how we can connect with other people during Lent.

This Friday all students are **encouraged to wear coloured socks** with their school/sports uniform and contribute a **gold coin donation** to Caritas. We have been talking to the students about how **fortunate we are to have food on the table every day** and how each dollar we raise this Lent will go to children and families who don’t have this same privilege.

~ Thank you for your support ~

**‘The Weekend To End Women’s Cancers’**

This coming weekend, there is a **60km walk in Melbourne** to raise funds for Peter Macallum Hospital. The aim of the walk is to raise funds to end Women’s Cancers. One of the teams entered has some parents and former parents of St Mary’s College participating in this fantastic effort: The team members are: **Kate Best, Liz Conte, Jen Gilham, Bib Solomon, Kirsty Hare** and **Deb Bourne**. The girls have already raised $12,000 for the appeal. Congratulations and good luck for the weekend. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fundraising effort can go to the website **www.endcancer.org.au**

Mrs Rochelle Gough & Mrs Catherine Evans

**Preparing for Lent**

God of times and seasons
You have brought us again to Lent. Through our observance of Lent, help us to understand the meaning of your Son’s death and resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives.
In you is found no shadow of change but only the fullness of life and limitless truth. Open our hearts to the voice of your Word and free us from the original darkness that shadows our vision. Restore our sight that we may look upon your Son who calls us to repentance and a change of heart.
You have taught us to overcome our sins by prayer, fasting and works of mercy. When we are discouraged by our weakness, give us confidence in your love. Let your compassion fill us with hope and lead us through a Lent of repentance to the beauty of Easter joy.
Let this Lenten season be a time of restoration and the means for renewed direction and perspective. Guide us and make us channels of blessing to others.
Grant us a Lenten blessing, and may no one miss this time of growth.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**2nd – 6th March 2015 (Week 5 of 8)**

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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 3rd Mar.</th>
<th>College Aths Carnival (Yr.3-10) - Kings Park</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 4th Mar.</td>
<td>Yr.9 B4W – Melbourne Trip</td>
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<td>Prep Afternoon Tea (2.15pm)</td>
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<td>College Board Meeting (6.30pm)</td>
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<td>Friday 6th</td>
<td>Yr.8 Market Day Stalls</td>
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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

**2nd – 6th March**

<table>
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<th>Friday 27th Feb.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd Mar.</td>
<td>Jenna Fairbridge</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3rd Mar.</td>
<td>Lynne Morgan</td>
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<td>Wed. 4th Mar.</td>
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<td>Thursday 5th Mar.</td>
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<td>Friday 6th Mar.</td>
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