



From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

The New Year

The commencement of a new school year has a unique energy. After the relative calm of the preparatory staff days, schools start immediately in top gear with the arrival of the students. Like a long planned for party or wedding celebration, there is a sense of relief once the guests have arrived and everything is underway. As Marists, we are particularly attentive to those guests who may not know others quite so well, the students new to our schools.

The renown of our Marist schools in providing supportive and caring school environments is a consistent experience for so many of our families. In recent weeks I have had the pleasure of meeting a host of remarkable health professionals who have been caring for my elderly mother. Unsolicited reflections on experiences as students and parents in three different Marist schools highlighted a palpable and abiding sense of appreciation and gratitude for the patient, respectful and encouraging teachers they had experienced at their respective Marist schools. Words such as “transformative”, “life changing”, “inspirational”, “forgiving”, “patient” and “affectionate” sprinkled the conversations with such spontaneity, these were privileged moments on behalf of all Marist educators.

As we commence the new school year, we must never underestimate the intuitive recognition by students for teachers who show they care in so many ways. Sometimes, in the careful, detailed preparation of opening liturgies, assemblies, induction programs, orientation and, indeed classes, one might naturally question effort versus impact. However, a teacher’s example is often a slow burning influence that continues to prosper in the hearts and minds of young people for decades. As the initial euphoria of the first weeks level to sustained enthusiasm, these well known sentiments from the esteemed American author, Pearl S Buck are shared for your reflection:

Only the brave should teach, the men and women whose integrity cannot be shaken, whose minds are enlightened enough to understand the high calling of the teacher, whose hearts are unshakeably loyal to the young, whatever the interests of those who are in power.

There is no hope for our world unless we can educate a different kind of man and woman. I put the teacher higher than any other person today in world society, in responsibility and in opportunity.

Only those who love the young should teach. Teaching is not a way to make a livelihood. The livelihood is incidental. Teaching is a vocation. It is as sacred as priesthood; as innate as a desire; as inseparable as the genius which compels a great artist. If a teacher has not the concern of humanity, the love of living creatures, the vision of the priest and of the artist, they must not teach. Teachers who hate to teach can only have pupils who hate to learn.

Great and true teachers think of the child, dream child see visions, not of themselves but in the flowering of the child into adulthood. They think of the child first and always, not of themselves.

It takes courage to be a teacher, and it takes unalterable love for the child.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

REMINDER

LAVALLA MAGAZINE

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia.

The cut-off date for contributions for the 2023 editions of Lavalla are:

Wednesday 5 April 2023: Issue 1

Friday 22 September 2023: Issue 2

All submissions should be sent to Br Michael Flanagan (michael.flanagan@marists.org.au). Further information can be found [HERE](#).

We are all called by God to live our lives as fully as possible. This “abundant life” isn’t just about religion. It’s not about church. It’s not about how much scripture we read, or how many prayers we say. It’s about God’s grace in us. It’s about good and right living. It’s about the deep-down assurance that we are loved totally by God. It’s about a desire to tell our brothers and sisters about our full life.

“Life to the fullest” is God’s gift to us, free and unconditional.



New staff at Marist College Emerald participated in the ‘New Staff Formation’ program.



Middle Leaders from St Peter Claver College generously gave part of their holidays to participate in the Middle Leaders Program.



Staff from Mt Maria College, Petrie, enjoyed an overnight stay on the Sunshine Coast and participated in the new national staff spirituality program: ‘Created & Called - A revolution of love and tenderness’.



Australian Marist Solidarity NEWS

Marist Schools across Australia stand in solidarity with highly marginalised youth in Asia and the Pacific, supporting AMS to transform young lives through the power of education.

Welcome to our 2023 Schools Campaign Kit. 2023 is a very special year for Marists in our region as it is the first year of the new Star of the Sea Province. This brings together Marist Brothers and lay people from 11 countries into one large and diverse unit in our global Marist family.

For this year's School Campaign we are listening to and learning from the people of Bougainville. The Marist Brothers have played a significant role in the history of Bougainville, which you can learn about in the kit. Our current work there centres around St Joseph's College in the community of Mabiri in central Bougainville.



Over the past year AMS and St Joseph's have worked closely together to prepare St Joseph's to welcome its first Year 11 students in 2024. Thanks to the contributions of Australian Marists we've been able to complete a new dormitory and classroom building and work is underway building teacher housing, ensuring the computer classrooms have strong solar power and installing hydration stations around the school to increase student access to clean water.



Launch of Schools Campaign Kit 2023!

We are thrilled to announce that our Schools Campaign Kit has been launched for 2023! This year's focus community is St Joseph's Mabiri in Bougainville. The Schools Campaign Kit has information about the community, the region's historical context, prayer resources and interactive learning activities.

It also provides new ideas for fundraising activities, to be led by students within their schools and local communities. From music and celebration, cooking lessons, and a brief introduction to the local dialect "Tok Pisin", the kit invites students to emerge themselves into this unique part

Get involved! New ideas for fundraising activities!

Ideas include a "Sing Sing" concert where students and teachers alike are invited to practice a traditional Bougainvillean piece before performing to a live audience. The audience will pick the best act by donating! Other ideas include a "Plant Sale" where students are encouraged to form an environment club where they sow and nurture their plants throughout the year, before putting them up for market! A "New Release Film" night is also

of the Pacific region, learning the importance of customs and practices of Bougainvillean people and the barriers their young people face when it comes to accessing education.

View all of the resources for this years campaign at:

<https://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/>



on the cards, where students can engage with their fellow peers and parents, but also the broader community. This would involve linking up with local cinemas and getting them onboard through ticket deals or lucky door prizes. A classic "Sausage Sizzle" is also in the mix as well as a "Trivia Night" that invites both students and families alike!

We are currently working on setting up a digital fundraising platform that will help ease fundraising drives for students. Watch this space!





As Advent 2022 came near, we sought the generous support of Marist communities, to bring the Christmas spirit alive for the children and young people we care for and support, through 'A Marist Noel.'

Our hope-to capture the Christmas spirit for the children and young people in our residential care homes through the common practice of gift giving-was realised, as we purchased gifts for 169 children and young people in our care.

We thank the many who dug deep, and to highlight 3 Marist schools who were outstanding in their donations and support:

- Marist College, Kogarah
- Marist Catholic College, Penshurst
- John Therry Catholic College

A big thank you to Simon Ghantous, Ray Martin and Wayne Marshall, and these generous communities who rose to the occasion... we couldn't have done this without you. We hope these, and many more Marist communities, will likewise give generously in 2023 <https://www.amaristnoel.com/>

