



## Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Friends of Berne

The Marist Brothers are in the process of launching our 'solidarity' campaign for the year. This occurs at the beginning of Lent each year and focuses on a theme related to the work of our Marist Asia Pacific Solidarity Office (MAPS).

The MAPS office, which is located in Brisbane, is a national office responsible for supporting our work in the Asia-Pacific region. This part of the world faces problems in a range of areas, including the provision of education. Local brothers and lay people are providing education in these countries at all levels: primary,

It is meant to educate our Australian children about the realities of life in other countries and raise their awareness about helping others. We have carefully chosen the word 'solidarity' because it is about standing alongside others in their time of need. It is consistent with that old Australian characteristic of being by your mate in the tough times. So, it is about an attitude and way of being.

This year, the theme is "Be part of the BIGGER PICTURE". It will introduce to our students a broader sense of being Marist, making them aware of our international

## Be Part of the Bigger Picture

secondary, and tertiary. The common problem they face is significant lack of funds and resources. The poverty in these situations is a constant restriction.

We undertake to support these people, many of whom we know personally, in a variety of ways and this campaign is just one of them. The aim of the campaign is to provide the funding to complete projects that are most urgent. In most cases we also approach other non-government organisations (NGOs) from around the world to put extra money towards the project. In fact, the NGO usually puts the bulk of the money toward the stated project but they will not do so unless we are putting our own money forward. On average, they will invest two thirds of the project cost. Hence, every dollar we raise is worth three dollars. This arrangement allows us to complete an enormous number of projects that we just couldn't afford to do any other way. The fifty Marist schools in Australia can have a real impact.

There will be a collection made throughout Lent within our school for this reason. Can I ask you to do what you can for this worthy cause. Our contribution may be comparatively small, but it is still appreciated.

The campaign is not only about fundraising.

connections. It reminds them to look beyond our own world to a wider scope and enables them to realise that we are responsible for other people around the world not just those in our own backyard. They will also see that we have so much to offer to these people who have so many struggles. It is also significant that most of the people we are supporting are the age of our own students. Children this age are struggling for their dignity, access to education, and their rights.

There are a number of materials and resources that can be found at <http://maristsolidarity.net.au/maps/2012>. They are geared for teachers and students but I think you would find them informative and give you a bigger picture of what we do in the Marist world. Amongst it there is a photo gallery of the various places we work. Likewise, you can access our YouTube channel by entering Marist Solidarity into YouTube.

I hope that we can expand our students' horizons this Lent with our solidarity campaign. I encourage you to participate in this in whatever way you can.

Hope Always,

Br Darren Burge  
Principal

## Issue 1 2012

### Upcoming Events

**21 February**

Parenting In Practice

**22 February**

Ash Wednesday

**28 February**

Parenting In Practice

**5–9 March**

Year 10 Work Experience

**6–9 March**

Years 8 & 9 Camps & Activities

**19–23 March**

Year 9 Work Experience

**20–23 March**

Year 10 Camp

**31 March**

Barefoot Bowls: School Social

**5 April**

Stations of the Cross, Mittagong  
Students' last day Term 1

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Br Darren speaks during the recent Parent Information Evening

## Changes to the School Certificate

Students going into Year 10 2012 and beyond will not have to sit for state-wide, external School Certificate exams from 2012. A new credential will be provided to eligible students who choose to leave school prior to obtaining the HSC.

The mandatory curriculum requirements are unchanged from those that currently apply. In other words, the day-to-day content and processes of the students' education in Year 10 remains exactly the same. The school will be required to submit grades for Year 10 students to the NSW Board of Studies in the same way we have in the past. In short, the usual accountability for the provision of the curriculum and the grading of students applies. School based assessments will continue and will form the basis of the grades submitted at the end of the year.

—Nicole Arathoon, Curriculum Coordinator

## Coles Sports for Schools Program

Thank you to everyone who collected *Coles Sports for Schools* vouchers for Berne last year. We managed to collect 7,880 vouchers enabling us to buy a number of items for our sports program including cricket balls, practice golf balls, chipping baskets, handballs, flying discs, vortexes, and NFL- and tennis-balls. We look forward to receiving this equipment early first term. Thank you to Coles for this contribution.

## Opening School Mass

Father Andrew Nee, the Chaplain from our brother school at Hunters Hill, celebrated a beautiful school Mass on Friday February 3rd. The Marist Province theme is based around the Emmaus story where we are challenged to Encounter Christ with eyes opened and hearts burning. Fr Andrew explained that we can encounter God anywhere and that his presence is certainly felt in the Eucharist. We were challenged to pray for one another, those we love, and those who love and care for us. We take this theme into the year ahead, and will continue to reflect upon it in school assemblies and other liturgies.

—Paul Harris

## NSW Parents' Council

Did you know our school is affiliated with the NSW Parents' Council?

The Council represents parents with children at non-government schools and advocates on our behalf in order to achieve better educational outcomes for our children and most importantly

to protect our right of choosing the right school for our children.

Please visit their website and sign up to receive their newsletters and regular updates on educational and social issues.

[www.parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au](http://www.parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au)

## Farewell Ed Flood

Ed joined the staff at Berne during 2002 having previously worked in the Catholic primary school system. During almost 10 years at the school Ed undertook a variety of roles. One of his earliest assignments was as the Year 8 coordinator, a position where Ed was able to make difficult students feel at ease and also command their respect. It was always a hard task to teach Ed's students when they got to Year 9 and would fondly remember and remind their teachers how much better it was with Ed in Year 8.

Ed also took on the role as curriculum coordinator and successfully guided the staff through various reviews and registrations and was an important member of the school executive and management teams. Most recently Ed initiated and conducted the school's Learning Advancement Centre where his expertise in the area of learning styles were put to great use while working with many students with special needs. Ed



also put a considerable amount of energy into educating the staff about the most effective methods to teach students according to their particular learning style.

For many years Ed also made a significant contribution to the musical life of the school whether through teaching or playing guitar at school liturgies and graduations.

Ed's humour and his gentle and personable manner with both students and staff will be greatly missed. Our fond wishes go with him to De La Salle, Caringbah.

## Building Works at Berne

During the summer holidays an extensive building programme was undertaken at Berne. The main focus of the work was to refurbish existing rooms in order to improve our facilities.

Much needed funding was provided by Sydney CEO so that the Art room and part of the Wood Technics room could be converted into three focus learning rooms.

The first room created is a multipurpose hospitality kitchen equipped with 4 separate work stations each of which has a stove, oven, and sink, as well as food preparation space. The room also features a ceiling-mounted data projector.



The second room is a Science lab, equipped with four work stations all with sinks, preparation areas for experiments, and proper storage facilities.

The final room to be created is a new Behaviour Unit with four cubicles, all with computers. Attached to the new BU are two offices which can be used as meeting rooms for parent interviews and staff meetings.



Other minor building works have been completed on the exterior of the school, such as new paved areas and repairing of fences to improve the security and amenity of the outside playground areas.

In addition to the building works completed at Berne, the CEO has undertaken a complete refurbishment of the CIEC building on our site. This building is now known as the *Eileen O'Connor Centre* and

it provides educational assistance and resources to different schools throughout the Sydney Diocese in the areas of Special Needs, Gifted and Talented, and ESL. The CIEC are also still housed in this building.

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### **Blessing for Longing**

*Benedictus, John O'Donohue*

Blessed be the longing that brought you here and quickens your soul with wonder.

May you have the courage to listen to the voice of Desire that disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.

May you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease to discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.

May the forms of your belonging—in love, creativity, and friendship—be equal to the grandeur and call of your soul.

May the one you long for long for you.

May your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire.

May a secret Providence guide your thought and nurture your feeling.

May your mind inhabit your life with the sureness with which your body inhabits the world.

May I have the courage today to live the life that I would love, to postpone my dream no longer. But do at last what I came here for and waste my heart on fear no more.

## **Cole Classic Swim—Fugen's Friends of Berne**

A group of forty generous people swam in the Cole Classic Swim for Berne a couple of weeks ago. The Fugen Construction Company chose us as their charity for the event and gathered the team under the name of *Fugen's Friends of Berne*.

The company has had a long association with the Marist Brothers and they show a genuine interest in doing something for other people in the community. They have a special interest in supporting children, especially those who need extra support. This outstanding spirit was what resulted in them choosing to support our school.

The spirit of the group and the day is best summed up in the opening part of my letter of thanks to the swimmers:

"The generosity, community spirit and good will that was present in the group on Sunday morning was most noticeable. This began with the warm welcome I received from those who were preparing the BBQ and extended to each of the swimmers that shook my hand or had a chat. I walked away with a skip in my step from meeting everybody and seeing the wonderful contribution that you are making to the community."

The swim raised a total of \$15,000 for the school.

**FUGEN**  
KNOW HOW



Fugen's Friends of Berne



Dan and Tim Murphy, Fugen Directors and their brother, Liam

## job ready! Program

Welcome back to everyone, and a very warm welcome to new families at Berne.

For Year 9 students, this year will be their first as participants in the job ready! Program. A large component of the Program is the completion of at least eight weeks of work experience during Years 9 & 10. Parents and Carers have already received a letter from me providing a breakdown of the components of the Program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

If I could summarise the purpose of the job ready! Program into just a few words, it would be: to give students choices at the end of their time at Berne. Whether they choose to continue onto Year 11, move to work, or to further training, job ready! is all about developing employability skills and giving students opportunities to experience real life work situations.

In 2012 we are very pleased to be able to continue to offer this program delivered as a Stage 5 (Years 9 & 10) Vocational Education and Training (VET) course known as a *Certificate I in Business*. This course is being delivered concurrently with the NSW Board of Studies' *Work Education* subject. As in previous years, this course is based on the development and practise of employability skills, which relies heavily on gaining practical skills during work experience placements.

When students finish the full course (delivered over two years), they will be awarded a nationally recognised certificate that confirms that they have achieved competencies in the units contained in the course. This means that if they enrol in a TAFE course in the future, they will receive recognition for the training they have undertaken at school.

### Work Experience

The dates for work experience in 2012 are:

	Year 9	Year 10
Term 1	5–9 March	19–23 March
Term 2	21–25 May	21–25 May
Term 3	10–14 September	10–14 September
Term 4	5–9 November	15–21 November

Your cooperation and support with work

experience are appreciated. We will work with each student individually to assist them in finding an employer, and making arrangements for their placement.

### Tax File Numbers (TFNs)

In order to be taxed at an appropriate rate if undertaking paid work, your son or daughter needs a tax file number. We can assist with paperwork for the ATO to get a TFN. Students will learn more about TFNs during their Work Education lessons. If they want to apply for a TFN (recommend they do so), they can get the form from me, I will help them complete it, and they can bring it back to me at school with your signature, and I will send it on to the ATO.

### Changing Lanes

As of last week, all of our 2011 graduating Year 10 students were working or studying on a full-time basis. One student commenced work as an apprentice, one is working full-time, and the others have all commenced Year 11 studies. Congratulations!

Since starting school this year, I have spoken with nearly all of the Year 10 class from 2011, and hope their achievements in finding meaningful work or study options are encouraging for you, especially those in Year 10 now, who look forward to making decisions about their life beyond Berne. The job ready! and Changing Lanes Programs are provided to assist in making the transition from school, to whatever you decide will come next.

**Matt Boyd** (2009–2011) also visited school this week. He has commenced a part-time TAFE course in computer repairs and maintenance in the evenings and is looking for full time work to complement this training. He has an up-to-date résumé and letter of introduction that he will use when he approaches a range of employers that he has researched on the Internet. Good luck Matt.

**Sioli Kamali** (Year 10, 2010) called at the beginning of the year, seeking help with enrolling at TAFE to do a Year 11/12 course too. He is using his network well, and has set himself up with a realistic study workload.

### The Berne community

gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Ashfield RSL Club for their grants totalling \$3,500 to support our *Changing Lanes* and *Skills for Living* Programs. This assistance is very much appreciated.

# PARENTS' CORNER

## The importance of sleep

For those that can't sleep:

- Dim the lights before going to bed.
- Difficulty sleeping can lead to feelings of anxiety and depression which further hinder the ability to fall asleep. Try thinking positively about your sleeping.
- Encourage your child to avoid going to bed too early or having an afternoon nap. This will make them less tired when they try to fall asleep later.
- Don't go to bed hungry or with a full bladder.
- Encourage your child to use their bed only for sleep. Watching TV in bed before sleeping will only stimulate their brain when it should be slowing down. It is important that their body associates going to bed only with sleep!
- Avoid drinking caffeine about 3–4 hours before going to bed.
- Sleeping is a habit—encourage them to make a choice to get out of bed as soon as they wake up. Try to do this at the same time each day. This will help them feel more refreshed throughout the day.
- It takes about 5 continuous days of following a new sleep routine to re-establish good sleeping patterns. For those that won't sleep:
- Limit the intake of sugar and other stimulants, such as Coke, after about 6:00pm.
- Try to avoid letting your child have a TV or computer in their room.
- Talk about the importance of sleep together and negotiate an appropriate time to go to bed.
- Discourage afternoon naps.
- Try not to let your child sleep too late into the morning, and encourage them to get up at around the same time each day—this encourages good sleeping habits.

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