

15 December

Focus for the Week: Be Ready for the Coming of Our Lord - Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus' message to John the Baptist was, 'Happy is the person who does not lose faith in me.'

As we get closer to the feast of Christmas we are called to reflect upon what is about to be celebrated. Being ready, for the coming of a saviour is a glorious event. It should indeed greatly boost our spirits

Like John the Baptist - we too can find ourselves in dark situations where we question 'where God is when I need him'. We can be going along nicely when some sort of storm suddenly hits and things just go wrong. We feel let down by God and we may doubt his love for us. At times like these may we hear the words of Jesus "Blessed is the person who does not lose faith in me".

Life is becoming increasingly stressful. Christmas brings added work and more stress. In many homes families can feel overwhelmed and tired at this time of the year and wonder if they will be able to cope.

We all need to help ease any stress at home by firstly being positive and remembering what Christmas is about, the Coming of our Saviour. As individuals we need to think how can I help to make Christmas a peaceful time a time of hope for all? Don't expect to get rewarded for kind actions but be rewarded with the knowledge that you have tried your best to be there for others.

That is what the true Christmas spirit is about – everyone getting along and being happy. Being in the right frame of mind and heart is necessary.

So we wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and that every one of you are safe wherever you go or travel to and from.

May God Bless you all.

From all of the Staff at Marian School

Value Focus: Community Participation – Week 10

The term has rushed headlong to its conclusion. Soon we will be parting from many of those who have been part of our daily Marian School lives for the summer break, or longer. As we settle into Christmas, let us celebrate that we are indeed part of Christ's wider community. Let us remember the real reason for the season – The coming of Jesus, so that we might have eternal life. Take time out, relax with friends and family, and look around to all of those people you can be thankful for. Also take time to look wider and reflect on what you can do to help make others' lives brighter- acts in this regard have in turn the payback of making our own lives brighter – such is the power of the random (or planned!) act of kindness.

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. ~Norman Vincent Peale

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. ~Burton Hillis

I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. ~Charles Dickens

Dear Parents and Friends of the school

Principal's Platform: Well folks, this is the last school newsletter for the year and the school year is coming to an end. On behalf of the staff I wish to thank you all for the wonderful support throughout the year and wish you all a happy and joyful Christmas time with family and friends. To those families leaving Marian School I wish every blessing for the future and thank you for helping to make this school a community.

Important Info.

- 2011 class lists are published on the school website. To access the lists you will need the password that was sent home with the reports. The lists are published before the end of the school year so that as a parent you able to act positively and encourage prospective classmates around to play over the holidays and also for your child to start the year with the security of at least knowing their teacher's name. **Please do not ask for classes to be changed around once they are published, as any request will be declined.** I have confidence in my staff and in the systems of guidance and support that are in place, I ask for your support.
- The 2011 stationery lists can be viewed on the school website.
- Classes end at 12 noon this Friday 17 December. After School Care will operate throughout the afternoon.

- Carol Service and Year 8 Graduation tomorrow Thursday 16 December starting at 5.30 p.m. All students to wear full school uniform.
- The School office will reopen on Monday 24 January.
- Classes begin on 1 February 2011.

When looking at the class lists you might have noticed that Room 15 is to be taught by both Mrs Steens and Mrs Dale next year. Mrs Steens has been seconded to the Diocesan Catholic Education office for two days a week as a Primary School Religious Education Advisor.

The holidays are an opportunity for maintenance projects and this summer will be no exception. During the holidays a new safety surface is to be laid under the senior playground at a cost of \$40, 000. Thank you to the PTFA for their financial contribution to this project.

Remember Christ this Christmas, make sure your children know and celebrate the Christian joy of Christmas, sadly it is so easy to get lost in the material world. I encourage you to create memories for your children so that for years to come they will be able to share these with others. There will be a Christmas vigil Mass (family orientated) at the Cathedral at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Midnight

Mass starting with Christmas carols at 11.15 p.m., a 7.30 a.m and a 10.30 a.m. Mass on Christmas day. St Pius in Melville have a Mass on Christmas day at 9 a.m. and a midnight Mass and St Mathew's on Silverdale Road has a Mass at 9.15 a.m. on Christmas day.

School finishes on Friday at 12noon. Please ensure that your children have been picked up by 12:30 pm as the office will be closed.

Carol Service: Tomorrow (Thursday) 5:30pm. All students to wear full school uniform.

Thank you: Many, many thanks to all the families who have supported the welfare of our families in need. God Bless and have a great rest over the holidays. (I am happy to accept any uniforms from those who are leaving!)

Love – Martha

Bereavements: we extend our deepest sympathies to Hunter and Charlie Moon on the death of their much loved Aunty Tess

Admin:

- The office will be open from the 24 to January from 9am – 3pm.
- Class lists 2011 are now on the web www.marian.school.nz
- Stationery lists 2011 are also on the web if you happen to have lost yours.

From all the Admin Team, have a safe and happy Christmas
God Bless – Marian

Over the Holidays: Our assessment results once again show a general pattern of great learning gains in reading, writing and maths. You can assist children not to slip back over the holidays by encouraging them to read for ten minutes each day, go over their basic facts and by encouraging them to keep a holiday diary where they jot down a brief summary of what they have done that day. Even 3 sentences a day will go a long way to keeping their skills up, little and often is the key!

Marian School After School Care: Due to popular demand, we are running more holiday programmes on the dates as follows: Monday 20 Dec – Wed 22 Dec. Monday 17 January – Fri 28 January. Cost is \$32.00 per day per child. Daily times from 8am – 5pm. Please give your names to Maree or Louanne. Phone Maree 027 308 1840
All accounts must be paid in full.

Young Mum Desperately seeks work – See Martha if you can assist

Celebrating Success: Congratulations to the following for their achievements this week;

- Congratulations to flute pupils **Katie Pigou** and **Amelia Joshy** who sat their Trinity Guildhall grade 2 flute exams. Katie gained 87% Distinction and Amelia gained 75% Merit. Their flute teacher Catherine Wallace is delighted with their results and keen to have new flute students at our school next year.
- Melissa Petrin, Kellie Petrin and Tyra Coffin-Enea for completing the Marian Dive Course and asked to Dive for the Waikato Dive Team.
- Best wishes to Melissa Petrin, Kate Evetts and Lizzy Grace for their upcoming Under14 Girls Waterpolo Tournament in Tauranga this weekend.
- **Team 2 Athletics:**

Highjump finalists: Alvin Rajin, Clarisse Leger-Walker and Cameron Steffert

Sprints:

7 year old girls: 1st Halle Scurrah, 2nd Libby Singer, 3rd Laura Allison

7 year old boys: 1st Joshua Cameron, Te Auraki Kapa-Kaaka
8 year girls; 1st Brenna Leong, 2nd Keelin Leong, 3rd Lucy Muldowney

8 yearl Boys: 1st Cameron Steffert, 2nd Tony Paleti, 3rd Eric Leiataua.

9 Year Girls; 1st Joy Teerite, 2nd Milou Sopers, 3rd Pearl James.

9 Year old Boys; 1st Alvin Rajan, 2nd Luka Southcombe-Nguyen, 3rd Luke Cameron.

- **Amelia Joshy** passed the Trinity Speech & Drama Grade 4 Exam with distinction.
- Katie Pigou who achieved distinction in her Trinity Guildhall Grade 2 Flute exam
- **Team 3 Cultural Excellence:** Cultural award citations omitted at the awards on Monday:-
Angelique Tuisamoa - Angelique plays the clarinet in the Marian School Orchestra and additionally plays the piano. She is a member of the Marian School Team 3 Choir and has performed for the combined Team 3 and 4 choir which won the Mish-Mash Television schools' competition. Angelique was selected to represent team 3 at the recent Tu Meke Maori Cultural evening.
Clarissa Tan - Clarissa plays the violin in the Marian School Orchestra and additionally plays the flute. She is a member of the Marian School Team 3 Choir and has performed for the combined Team 3 and 4 choir which won the Mish-Mash Television schools' competition. Clarissa is also a member of the 2010 team 3 band where she plays the guitar.

Uniform Sale:

- Skirt size12, Pinafore size10, Jersey, PE T-shirt. Tel: 8437589
- Marian school skirt, polar fleece and jersey for sale. Excellent condition. Please phone Christine on 856 7280

Found: A ring – please see Marian at the school office.

Lost:

- A school hat named Madeleine Bean – please return to Room 7
- A school tunic named M Petrin and phone number – return to Rm13.

Girls Bike for Sale: Giant 20" girls bike (blue) Hardly used. \$90.00. Phone 855 0768 or 027 600 6835

Car For Sale: 1991 Nissan Bluebird ARX 2.0 L, 169,00 Km approx.. Good Cond. \$1800. O.n.o. Ph Marisse 843 5680

Bubble Dome School Holiday Programmes

Have you ever wondered how computer games and 3D movies like Toy Story are made? Learn the latest in 3D Animation and Games Design on a Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop this December and January. For students aged 6 to 15 years. Tel: 0800 GET BUBBLE (438-282) or Email: info@bubbledome.co.nz or Visit: www.bubbledome.co.nz.

Book now for 2011! Speech and Drama tuition available for students 9 - 15 years old. Competitions and Speech New Zealand examinations covered. Acting, public speaking, poetry, reading aloud, voice and presentation skills. Fun group lessons. Contact Laura Watson A.S.B. 07 856 3303 or 027 4124 204 lauraw09@gmail.com

Housesitter Required: for 3-bedroom home in Fairfield from Mid Dec until end of January. Unfurnished. Contact Rachael 021 216 8556

God Bless you all and have a safe and happy holiday.

John Coulam
Principal