A Violinist in the Metro … or Unless we become like little children.

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin; it was a cold January morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that thousands of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule. A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping, continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work. The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother hurried him along, but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on. In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money, but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected $32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars. Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theatre in Boston and the seats averaged $100.

This is a real story, Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context? One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

May you spot life’s many beautiful moments, stop and enjoy them.

Taking our Waterfront Advantage to a New Level

MSCW at Chinese New Year!!!!

The atmosphere in Darling Harbour was electric on Saturday 27th February, where the biggest Dragon Boat meet in the Southern Hemisphere was held. With the excitement of over 3000 paddlers competing to the beat of the drum in front of thousands of spectators on a beautiful clear summer’s day in the heart of Sydney. It was a truly memorable experience!

Our Year 9 and 10 girls’ dragon boating team have been training for the last nine months preparing themselves for competition with paddling and strength sessions. Under the amazing guidance of the NSW junior coach, Diana Dent, the girls were prepared mentally and physically for the big day of racing against other junior teams from NSW. The girls showed great technique and timing to be placed overall third on the day which is a fantastic achievement!

It was a wonderful day seeing so many parents and teachers cheering our girls on and enjoying the dragon boating experience!

The girls are now training hard with Diana to prepare for the NSW Championships in Penrith on 28th March before they fly to Adelaide for the Australian Championships in April. Well done girls, we are all so proud of your efforts!

All Sydney Schools Tri Series

Other successes were also achieved on this same weekend in Sailing. MSCW Sailing Team hosted the final of the All Sydney Schools Tri Series at Woollahra Sailing Club, Rose Bay. With 60 boats and 12 Colleges competing over three regattas, a team result is formed by the best three results from each Regatta. After Regatta 2 MSCW was 2nd in two classes. That changed after Regatta 3 when the girls put their foot down in the Laser 4.7’s to win. We also welcomed the return of our Australian Youth Champion, Alexandra South, for Regatta 3 in the Laser Radial division which boosted the results to a win in this class as well.

“There are not many sporting events where girls can compete directly with the boys; just shows you what the girls can do” said Mr Maloney, Sailing Master. (More details on page 3.)
Congratulations to Dana Oliveri
We would like to congratulate Dana Oliveri who was our 2009 beneficiary of the Macquarie University Preferred Admissions Scheme where she received additional points to ensure her entry into her preferred course - Bachelor of Medical Science. Being a member of the Macquarie University School Partners program allows our Year 12 girls to apply for additional points to boost their ATAR when applying for courses at Macquarie University. Each year we have had girls who have benefited from this opportunity and it is great to know Dana has also been given the opportunity to undertake her preferred course of study.

Would you like to host a visiting Japanese girl?
Dear Year 10 girls and parents
Each year we host Japanese students from our sister school Meijo, in Osaka. Last year in 2009 their trip was cancelled due to the swine flu threats. To make up for this we are hosting two groups of Japanese students this year – one this March and another in July.
In July eight 16 year old Japanese girls have requested to be with us for 9 days. During this time these girls will be attending some practical classes and having special English language tuition at MSCW.
We are looking for families of Year 10 girls who may be able to host a Japanese girl for this time. You don’t need a separate bedroom or a large house – just a mattress on the floor – that’s what they are used to! They live in small flats/units.
The dates are yet to be confirmed and incorporate only one weekend. It is a wonderful way to meet people of another culture and set up ties for possible future travel of your own! The Japanese girls will be accompanied by a teacher from Meijo High School who will be hosted by a teacher – possibly myself.
If you are interested in being a host family could you please email me and I will be in contact with you soon. It really is a memorable experience! I have hosted many students and teachers and had a wonderful time!
Those girls who do host someone will have first preference in being an exchange-student to Japan in 2011!
Many thanks, Ms Fisher (fisher@mscw.catholic.edu.au)

DATES TO REMEMBER
8th Mar HSC Mid Course Exams – Meijo Exchange to MSCW
9th Mar HSC Mid Course Exams
Yr 10 Geography excursion
Meijo Exchange to MSCW
Yr 10 High Resolve
Meijo Exchange to MSCW
10th Mar HSC Mid Course Exams
Meijo Exchange to MSCW
11th Mar HSC Mid Course Exams
Meijo Exchange to MSCW
12th Mar HSC Mid Course Exams
Meijo Exchange to MSCW
Yr 9 Gender appreciation at Holy Cross College
13th Mar Sailing 3-6pm following with family BYO BBQ
15th Mar CGSSSA Swimming
Yr 5 Orientation
Meijo Exchange to MSCW
Catholic Schools Week
Yr 12 Work Placement (until 26th Mar inclusive)
16th Mar Meijo Exchange to MSCW
Yr 5 Orientation
Yr 10 High Resolve
Cardinal Pell meeting with student leaders
17th Mar ST PATRICK’S DAY
SOB meeting
18th Mar Yr 5 Orientation
19th Mar ST JOSEPH’S DAY
Yr 9 Reflection Day

Congratulations to the following girls …
For VISUAL ARTS
K. Alexander (Perroton), E. Der (Marcellin), E. Morell-Koroi (Colin), J.O. Beid (Perroton), J. Pezzano (Jaricot), E. Robbins (Jaricot), L. Scott (Colin), R. Urizar-Climent (Chanel), G. Wade (Marcellin), J. Birbara (Marcellin), K. Delavere (Marcellin), M. Graffeo (Jaricot), G. Houlihan (Chavoin), D. In dorato (Colin), L. Lewis (Chanel), C. Marrasza (Colin), L. Zhang (Jaricot), L. Mauger (Jaricot), I. Devine-Poulos (Perroton), C. Love (Perroton), I. Finocchiaro (Perroton), Y. Laferla (Perroton), B. McElroy (Colin), A. Webb (Colin), H. Cheung (Marcellin), A. Le Febvre (Chavoin), G. Fortunato (Chanel), A. Oliveri (Perroton), E. Ford (Jaricot), B. Manulono (Jaricot), T. Gonzales (Perroton), A. Karjalainen (Chavoin), B. Kushkarian (Chanel), J. Liu (Chanel).
For FOOD TECHNOLOGY
N. Shearer (Perroton).
Congratulations to Shannon O’Brien (Chavoin 332) for truly living the Marist Spirit!

Member of Association of Marist Schools of Australia and Alliance of Girls’ Schools
Sailing News

MSCW’s sailing team came from behind in both Laser 4.7s and Laser Radials to win the Sydney All Schools Tri Series 2010 last Saturday. This indeed was a tremendous result from this dedicated team of sailors and was the first time MSCW had dominated the Tri Series since 2000!

Radials

Our Radial team: Alexandra South, Amy Sunderland, Samantha McLaren, Emily Sloane and Emily Wohlfiel. Emily Sloane finished the Tri Series in 3rd place overall. Going into Regatta 3 we were 3 points behind St. Ignatius. However, Alexandra South’s return made a big impact with three wins. Emily Sloane with a 3-5-4 and Amy Sunderland with a 5-7-5 made a combined score of 32 points to add to Regattas 1 and 2 (66 points) for a total of 98 points. St. Ignatius came 2nd with 117 points and Scot’s College came 3rd. This was the last Tri Series for Samantha McLaren, Emily Sloane, Amy Sunderland and Alexandra South. What a great team they made and it was fitting that they were winners in 2010. Well done to these fine sailors – sometimes with happiness there is also some sadness – there should be a Year 13.

Laser 4.7s

Our Laser 4.7 team: Louise McLaren, Caitlin Tames, Amy Wang and Hiliary Chow. At the close of Regatta 2 MSCW were on 50 points, 10 points behind St. Ignatius who were on 40 points. Caitlin Tames, our top performer, was not available for the final Regatta so Hiliary Chow stepped in and also sailed in her first Tri Series. Our team gained a combined score of 31 points for Regatta 3, giving us a final total of 81 points. St. Ignatius was on 145 points, a difference of 64 points. This was an outstanding result! Amy Wang won the first race of her life in race one overall with a 1-4-4. Louise McLaren was first 4.7 - brilliant effort with a 2-2-2 in Regatta 3. Hiliary Chow with a 6-5-5. MSCW won the 4.7 shield in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Cranbrook won in 2008 and St. Ignatius in 2009. So, in 2010 we got it back. We have never won both divisions in the same year, so this is a very special group of sailors who deserve an almighty pat on the back. A team of champions! During the Tri Series, Saturday sailing at the College boat shed never missed a beat thanks to Samantha Chidgey and Kimberley Counter. Well done girls!

Saturday sailing this Saturday, 6th March, 10am-2pm. Remember to bring your sunscreen, sailing gear, swimmers, shorts, t-shirt or rashy, something for your feet (old sneakers would be good), warm change of clothes, lunch or something to BBQ and $15.00.

Saturday 13th March: Due to the Rowing Gold Cup on the Lane Cove River, Saturday sailing will be 3pm-6pm and follow on with a family BYO BBQ.

Many thanks to those parents who supported the Tri Series team, especially with hosting Regatta 3 for the rest of the schools. It was a big job and couldn’t happen without your hard work.

Mr Maloney (9879 6935, 0415 219 112)

All Schools Triathlon

The NSW All Schools Triathlon was held at Penrith Lakes last week and saw six girls representing Marist Sisters’ Woolwich. Triathlon is the ultimate modern day sport. It allows competitors to challenge and push themselves to the limit, inspire others, strive to achieve their best and, above all, have fun! This year the swim/cycle/run event was altered to a run/cycle/run as Penrith Lakes had high levels of blue/green algae during the competition. It was a great surprise and challenge for our swimmers! The individual event had one Woolwich competitor, Samantha Rodgers (Year 9), who completed a 4km run followed by a 15km cycle and was placed 23rd in the Catholic Schools category.

Woolwich had two teams entered into the Team Category, both achieving outstanding results. The team event was a 2km run, 15km cycle and 4km run. Lauren Wilson, Kate Young, and Samantha Rodgers came 10th, while Daniela Wingrave, Emma Unwin and Renee Dunne achieved 17th place. It was a fantastic day that had a great atmosphere around the venue. Congratulations to our triathletes who represented our College proudly. Woolwich looks forward to entering more teams next year!

Congratulations to ... Anneliese Karjalainen (Yr7 CHV 335) who has been selected for the NSW Soccer Team. Well done Anneliese. Alisha Bass (Yr10), Samantha Rodgers (Yr9) and Kate Young (Yr10) who have been selected in the U16’s Sydney Scorpios touch squad last weekend. Bianca Sorbello (Yr8) and Elizabeth O’Connor (Yr8) also made the Under 14’s squad. These girls have played some great football for Marist Sisters’ and it’s fantastic to see them recognised in these squads. Well done girls!
Teenagers, Alcohol and Drugs - what every parent needs to know!

Speaker: Paul Dillon  
Date: Tuesday 11th May  
Time: 7.30 pm  
Venue: MSCW Hall  
Cost: $10 (please send your payment in an envelope marked “Drug and Alcohol Talk”, with your name, daughter’s tutor group and number of tickets required to the Student Office before 30th April)

The delivery of high quality and accurate alcohol and drug information to parents is essential if a community-based approach to drug education is to be adopted by the school. DARTA parent information sessions cover a range of issues, including resilience and the importance of connectedness. They accentuate positive norms and aim to empower parents in this controversial area.

Paul Dillon has been working in the area of drug education for 25 years. He has worked at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney since 1994 where his key role was to disseminate research findings to policy makers, drug and alcohol workers and the general public. He provides information to many agencies and organisations across the country. He also works with school communities, including our Year 10 students, to ensure that they have access to good quality information and best practice drug education.

He was seconded to write the draft of a manual for the NSW Police Services on alcohol and violence and was also the Project Officer for ‘Stay in Control’, a campaign targeting teenage binge drinking. He was also a Community Programs Officer at CEIDA and has written for the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse’s projects designed specifically for primary school children.

Paul has worked internationally with the United Nations and the World Health Organisation and locally with the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS), and many of Australia’s leading sporting associations. He has appeared on programs such as Sunrise, TODAY and the 7PM Project, and had a regular spot on a national radio program on Triple J for seven years where he dealt with current youth drug issues.

All parents are strongly encouraged to attend this important presentation.

Mr Pauschmann and P&F Association
Some photos from Grandparents Day and the Visual Arts Exhibition

MSCW OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 28TH MARCH 2010

10am Mass
11am –2pm Curriculum Displays and Tours
12noon & 1.40pm Principal’s Address
66a Woolwich Road, Woolwich ph: 9816 2041

Member of Association of Marist Schools of Australia and Alliance of Girls’ Schools