On Wednesday we celebrated the commencement of the school year with our Opening College Mass. I was most impressed with the participation of the girls, and particularly the Year 12 College Leaders, and the behaviour of the girls in what were cramped and hot conditions. Thank you to Ms Julie Bjazevich and her liturgy team for the organisation of Mass and to Ms Eva Spata and the choir, Mr Todd McNeal (piano), Mr Nicholas Schneider (sound and vision).

2010 HSC Results

2010 was another wonderful year for Marist Sisters’ College in the Higher School Certificate. We congratulate all the girls for their dedication to their studies and their desire to achieve their personal best in their exams. In particular we congratulate the three girls who achieved the Premier’s Award for attaining Band 6 results (marks above 90) in ten or more units: Elizabeth Evans, Sarah Ienna and Claire Lofaro. This is a very significant achievement.

Other significant achievements include those girls who were acknowledged in the Board of Studies Top Achievers Course List:

- Sarah Ienna – 4th place Business Studies, 5th place Studies of Religion II
- Jennifer Inhof – 8th place Business Services examination
- Simone Papas – 14th place Business Studies
- Kate Samolej – 1st place Polish Continuers

On the HSC Distinguished Achievers Honours Roll, one hundred and eight band six results were achieved by forty-five MSCW girls and two accelerated Year 11 girls – Sarah Morgan and Kristabel Wong.

In terms of the cohort’s overall results:

- 14 courses were above state average for the number of Band 6 results achieved
- 22 subjects were above state average for the number of Band 5 and 6 results achieved.

These include:

- 100% of girls in English Extension
- 90% of girls in English Advanced
- 83% of girls in Textiles & Design

On behalf of all the girls I would like to thank the highly skilled teachers of MSCW whose dedication and commitment to their students has helped all the girls to achieve such excellent results.

School Certificate Results

Excellent results in Year 12 are built on sound achievement and good study patterns in Years 7 to 10, and in particular in the School Certificate Years of 9 and 10. 2010 saw the girls of Marist Sisters’ College achieve results that are well above state average in all areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>School Mean</th>
<th>State Mean</th>
<th>Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian History</td>
<td>74.92</td>
<td>70.16</td>
<td>+4.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literacy</td>
<td>80.91</td>
<td>76.87</td>
<td>+4.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing Skills</td>
<td>83.48</td>
<td>79.44</td>
<td>+4.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all those girls whose results showed academic excellence, diligence, improvement and steady progress and those who have given their all to achieve their best. I would like to thank, on behalf of the girls, their dedicated teachers, who help the girls to achieve their goals and motivate them to continue to strive for excellence. I hope that these excellent results encourage the girls in their senior studies to be determined to achieve their best in the Higher School Certificate.
LEARNING MATTERS AT MSCW

What is happening? This week one of our fearless national political leaders is in a spot of bother for behaving in a cold way and not showing emotion, and then soon after when she did show emotion, her motives were challenged. The fearless leader of the opposing camp encountered a similar difficulty. His began with something he said and was compounded quickly by his saying nothing – but looking … and looking … and looking. It is all a tad confusing.

There is a considerable number of Year 12 girls who are quite capable of clarifying this confusion and of coaching each of these notables, because they are aware of context, and its importance to understanding what is said and done.

Through their curriculum studies, the girls understand ‘context’, and this understanding has been extended in Study tutorials they are attending – in particular, the context in which their study takes place. The Mid Course exam period is looming, and the proposal presented to them is that there is real benefit in their setting their preparation in the context of learning itself.

The advancements in the technology used in neuroscience have enabled the learning brain to be observed is situ. This has given rise to myriad pieces of evidence that deepen our understanding of learning. Being able to define what ‘learning’ actually is, has in the past, often been done by analogy. From the evidence – and as presented to Year 11 parents and girls last week – Bernard (2010) reports that learning is the formation of new, stronger neural connections, that neural networks become healthier and more efficient with use, and that brain cell activity is greater when the learner sees relationships.

The final point – that metalearning facilitates improvement in learning itself – hopefully resonated with both the Year 11 and the Year 12 girls who encountered the word metalearning in Year 7. Developing an awareness of learning, and looking for ways to improve academic performance irrespective of any long held view of her own ability, can only serve a girl well.

The significance of all of this is that Year 12 is being encouraged to put their study into context: not to see their senior studies as interruptions to life, and exam prep as a fearful enterprise, but rather to see them as part of their brain’s wonderful capacity to grow and learn. Then armed with firsthand experience of the importance of context, they will be able to check their compass and take a trip down to the ACT and serve their country with … poise!

(Dr. Liz Lamb, Director of Learning and Teaching)

Congratulations to the following girls …
For VISUAL ARTS
K. Bell (Jaricot), B. Howard (Marcellin), S. La Ianca (Perroton), A. Peruch (Perroton), M. Bulmer (Jaricot), C. Howes (Chavoin), K. Hyeon Jeong (Chavoin), P. Lieurance (Chanel), M. Meade (Chanel), B. Sorbello (Perroton).

2011 P&F Meeting
The first P&F meeting for the year will be on Tuesday 15th February, starting at 7pm in the upstairs staff room. All welcome. This is a lovely opportunity to meet the new Principal and to get to know other parents. Light refreshments will be provided. Please see Agenda with the Newsletter email.

Thank you, P&F Committee
Cambodia Immersion Experience – an Amazing Opportunity

MSCW is again looking to offer Year 11 and 10 students the opportunity to experience the realities of life in a third world culture with a 2 week immersion experience in Cambodia at the end of Term 3. The program is arranged and operated through the Matesabroad Foundation and the students who participated in 2010 found it to be an exciting, confronting and life-changing experience.

An information evening will be held on 22nd February at 7:30pm in Belley for interested students and parents. The founding member from Matesabroad, John McKeon, and representatives from last year’s participants will be available to give you information and answer any questions you might have. For more information please contact dengate@mscw.catholic.edu.au

Dragon Boat Racing

Come to Darling Harbour this Saturday to see our team race in the Chinese New Year Regatta! The first race is at 11am with 4 races throughout the day and finals at 3pm. The team is training hard for the NSW and Australian Championships later this term. There are a few spots available in the school racing team. Training is held at 6.15am Thursday mornings at Pyrmont. You must make your own way there and a school bus will return you to school. There is also a training session held on the weekend which you should attend. There is a cost involved (payable by parents). If you are in Years 9-11 and can fulfil these requirements, please email Ms Kemp asap.

Year 8 High Resolves at MSCW in 2011

Over the past four years MSCW has been associated with the High Resolves organisation and successfully completed introduction, training and active involvement sessions with students from Years 8 to 10. The program motivates students to view themselves as purposeful global citizens and to acquire the mindset and skills necessary to lead their communities, and the world, to a brighter future.

Year 8 students will be attending two separate part-day incursions (at the College). The year is divided into two so that half the form attends from periods 2-4 on one day. The dates set aside for this are 16th and 17th May and 29th and 30th August. These days are run by a member of the High Resolves team and facilitated by Year 10 students who have elected to continue the program from Year 8 and through Year 9.

The cost for the Year 8 students to attend both days during 2011 is a minimal $15. This will appear on your daughter’s school fees. Should you have any questions about the High Resolves program – visit their web site www.highresolvs.org or contact Ms Anna Fisher (College Chaplain) fisher@mscw.catholic.edu.au.

School Fees

All School fees will be mailed out today and emailing of fees will commence next term. Thank you to those families who have emailed their addresses to us. Your fees can now be paid fortnightly or monthly, if you wish. Please contact the Business Manager if you would like to take up this option.

If pressing financial circumstances make it difficult to meet the on-time payment of fees, parents are asked to contact Mrs Kathleen Badolato (Business Manager) at school so that an interview to discuss possible arrangements for payment can be made.

St Ambrose Parish Sacramental Program

In February, St Ambrose parish has launched its sacramental program for 2011. Registrations are now being accepted for a limited time only for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Any candidates in Years 2 and above who have not received these Sacraments and wish to do so, please contact the parish office a.s.a.p. to obtain a copy of the registration letter either on 9743 1023 or on sacraments@stambrose.org.au.

St Ambrose will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on 12th June 2011 at 11am & 2pm. Please contact the parish office to register and enrol in the parish based program which will commence with a parent evening on 5th May 2011 at 7:30pm in the church.

Please contact the parish office a.s.a.p. to obtain a copy of the registration letter either on 9743 1023 or on sacraments@stambrose.org.au.
**Sailing News**

Our first day back on the water last Saturday was one very hot day and we had a big roll-up of sailors, including five Year 7 girls – Tameka, Geena, Fiona, Jessica and Natalie. Sophie McClelland and Grace LeMarquand sailed one of our College Lasers from Hunters Hill and we rigged another Laser on the wharf. It was quite windy (up to 30 knots) which caused a mast to break so we were reduced to one Laser in the afternoon. With the hot weather, swimming was an easy option.

Thank you to Mr John LeMarquand and Mr Peter McClelland for all their help during the day, and for producing a very classy BBQ for the girls. Also thanks to Jackie Luff who did her first Hobart in the Spirit of Adventure 2010. Jackie helped our girls all day.

To those Year 7 girls and others who missed out on Thursday sport sailing, remember you are welcome to come on Saturday 10am to 2pm.

**Important sailing accessory** - OLD SNEAKERS for your feet - VERY IMPORTANT.

**Sailing this Saturday, 12th February, 10am-2pm.** Remember to bring your sunscreen, sailing gear, swimmers, shorts, t-shirt or rashy, old sneakers, warm change of clothes, lunch or something to BBQ and $15.00. Parents are most welcome to come.

*From Isabella Shields (Yr 8, J1) – National and World Mirrors:*

“My family and I travelled to Albany, 400kms south of Perth WA, and sailed for two weeks. The first week doing the Mirror Nationals, the second week in the World International Mirror competition, where we came 43rd/66 as a junior in an open regatta. During those two weeks a total of 27 races were held which represents a whole reason of racing at my club. We experienced breakages, the loss of two spinnaker poles and 20-30 knot winds – but still had a great time.”

*Mr Maloney (9879 6935, 0415 219 112)*

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**Café Lyons** is looking for volunteers willing to share their time by assisting in the canteen. There are a number of ways to help including, serving, preparing lunches, baking, handing out lunch orders, making hot chocolates and plenty more.

If you would like to help please let us know. It’s great to get involved and I’m sure the girls would love to see you!

Even if you can only make it once a month or term, I can still roster you on and let you know well in advance.

Thank you to all our volunteers who already generously give their time helping at Café Lyons.

**Please email Melanie Mayer at cafelyons@mscw.catholic.edu.au or phone 9816 4928**

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**Dance Inc.**

Located at the Uniting Church Complex, Boronia Park

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Competitions, eisteddfods, exams and live performances. At Dance Inc. our qualified ATOD teachers offer fun, safe and enjoyable dance classes for all ages.

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