



# Newman Parents Consultative Committee

21.01

Monday 10 May 2021, 7.00pm  
Marist Auditorium Studios

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## Minutes

### 1. Acknowledgement to Country / Opening Prayer

The prayer focused on the 2021 Marist theme 'Breathe'. The Marist theme invites us to be attentive to the Spirit of Life in discerning the way forward.

### 2. Strategic Directions 2021 - 2023

John Finneran reiterated that the College has undergone significant renewal in the last couple of years.

The recently refreshed Vision for Learning and Vision for Mission plans provide a language and commitment to our entire community; that being current and past students, staff and parents. It is the College's hope that these commitments are lived out by all in our community.

These documents are the result of extensive community consultation and will be officially launched this term.

The 2021 – 2023 Strategic Directions focuses on four priority areas which include:

- A Catholic School Educating in the Marist Tradition
- Transformational Learning
- Culture of Innovation and Excellence
- Sustainability

#### A Catholic School Educating in the Marist Tradition

The College is committed to engagement with the mission and expression of the Church by providing different opportunities for staff, students and families (e.g. Thursday morning Mass, mission and serving others, Christian service learning program).

A big focus over the next three years is to consolidate and build on further opportunities for faith formation and community outreach/advocacy. The College already has strong partnerships with external organisations such as Marist Life Formation and Marist Youth Ministry.

#### Transformational Learning

Transformational learning is the process of deep constructive and meaningful learning that goes beyond the simple acquisition of knowledge.

At the heart of transformational learning are the ways in which learners construe, validate and reformulate the meaning of their experience and consciously make meaning of their lives.

Transformational learning therefore involves students changing understanding of self, revising their belief systems, and behavioural changes.

The College has employed a Special Projects Officer to develop a PK-12 whole College approach to Literacy and Numeracy which is underpinned by explicit, coherent and sequenced plans across all of the school years.

#### Culture of Innovation and Excellence

The primary focus of educational innovation is on teaching and learning theory and practice.

We want to be a school of choice and provide a culture of excellence for both our students and staff, animating student and staff's aspirations for success.

A review of the College's student leadership program across the Lavalla and Marcellin Campus will be conducted.

#### Sustainability

It has been identified that the College's approach to long-term sustainability is through sound governance, responsible stewardship and a strong reputational brand.

Strategic positioning of the College and the exercise of due diligence characterise key decision-making to take the College into the future.

Newman College is currently a CEWA group funded school.

In 2020 the College commenced work on leveraging our heritage by employing archivists from the Museum of Perth. The aim is to consolidate our archives to catalogue and capture the stories of past students and events. This will enable the College to develop a foundation that connects past students to the College and actively participate in College life.

With regard to the planning and execution of the relocation of the Marian Campus to provide a PK-12 education on one site, further information will be communicated to the College community in the coming weeks.

### **3. Annual School Improvement Plan 2021**

#### Discovery Learning

One of this year's strategic intentions was to develop extension learning pathways that enhance the opportunities for gifted and talented students.

Strategies included:

- The implementation of the K-10 GATE program SHINE utilising contemporary, evidence-based practices
- Upskill teaching staff on strategies to extend gifted and talented students within mainstream classrooms
- Explore external and internal opportunities (competitions, programs, electives) that enable Newman students to be challenged academically at a state and national level.

#### SHINE Program

All students are entitled to an education that will enable them to develop their full potential. This potential comes in many different forms be that intellectual, physical, creative, emotional, or social.

The SHINE program is designed to provide an engaging and challenging curriculum for students to develop their aptitudes and talents. In the SHINE program students are encouraged to solve, hypothesise, investigate problems, concepts, or topics. They are also encouraged to navigate their own learning. The purpose of this program is to enrich student's learning.

We want all students to be able to shine and our job is to nurture their gifts/aptitudes

Students in the top 5-10% are invited into the various SHINE program levels using a multi-faceted identification process. This includes both subjective and objective tests and reports. Student's progress, suitability, and readiness for the various stages of the programs is reviewed regularly.

SHINE Program Progression between the year levels include:

### **Early Childhood Years**

- STEM investigations
- Abstract thinking and conceptual development
- Developing collaborative skills
- Opportunity to pursue passion areas
- Developing the capacity to persevere through challenge

### **Upper Primary**

- Abstract thinking and conceptual development
- Developing collaborative skills
- Learning is facilitated, more student-directed
- Developing the capacity to persevere through challenge
- Extension in Mathematics (Number and Discovery Mathematics), Visual Arts

### **Secondary**

- Abstract thinking and conceptual development
- Learning is facilitated, more student-directed
- Inter-disciplinary skill development
- Withdrawal program weekly
- Extension (at various year levels in various domains).

In the last few years the College has become more involved in competitions and discovery learning (e.g. Da Vinci Decathlon, STEM Challenge Day, Future Problem Solving, Think Tank Challenge, UWA Partnerships, PBL Immersion)

Over the next 12 months the College will continue to reflect, develop and refine the SHINE Program. Already looking into more extension pathways for Years 7/8 and Years 9/10's and developing a consistent tiered instruction.

It has been identified that the catalyst to celebrate student achievements has motivated students to become more involved and willing to tap into their passion areas. Some of the ways students can celebrate their gifts and talents across K-12 are:

- Performing Arts Program (Production, Dance Troupe, Ensembles)
- Creative Writing program
- Specialist Sports Program
- Technologies and Coding (Coder Dojo)
- Principal's Assemblies
- PBL (Immersion)
- Academic Competitions (Science, Maths, writing)

It was raised that the College needs to change student and parent perception that this program is done during school time not after school.

## **4. National Child Safeguarding Standards**

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards provides a framework for Catholic Church entities to build child-safe cultures. These Standards are taken directly from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's final report.

The 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards:

- Are designed to be implemented by all Catholic entities, ministries and organisations across Australia
- Drive cultural and behavioural change and promote accountability and transparency of Catholic Church leaders and their ministries and entities
- Constitute a framework which articulates the requirements for Catholic entities to promote the safety of children through the implementation of policies and activities to prevent, respond to and report concerns regarding child abuse.

 <b>Standard 1</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>7</b></span> Committed leadership, governance and culture	 <b>Standard 6</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>18</b></span> Effective complaints management
 <b>Standard 2</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>10</b></span> Children are safe, informed and participate	 <b>Standard 7</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>21</b></span> Ongoing education and training
 <b>Standard 3</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>11</b></span> Partnering with families, carers and communities	 <b>Standard 8</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>23</b></span> Safe physical and online environments
 <b>Standard 4</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>13</b></span> Equity is promoted and diversity is respected	 <b>Standard 9</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>25</b></span> Continuous improvement
 <b>Standard 5</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14</b></span> Robust human resource management	 <b>Standard 10</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>26</b></span> Policies and procedures support child safety

The College commenced implementing the Child Safeguarding standards in November 2020. During this time the College has:

- Provided rigorous training for all our staff to ensure all are compliant with the Child Safeguarding requirements
- Implemented a Child Safeguarding Officers Team which meets once per term with the Principal
- Developed a new Child Safeguarding Policy (published on the College Website)
- Developed a new Child Safe Adult Code of Conduct (published on the College Website)

## 5. Terms of Reference

The College has a Newman Parent Consultative Committee (NPCC) and an additional group called Newman Parents.

The NPCC Executive meets prior to each NPCC meeting to discuss the agenda and raise issues on behalf of the wider community. The NPCC Executive is primarily accountable to the broader parent community as their nominated representatives.

The 2021 NPCC Executive comprises:

- Deborah Attard Portughes
- Caterina Celisano
- Kathy Blitz-Cokis
- Laura McFadgen

## 6. Q&A Session – Facilitated by the NPCC Committee

### Lockers

- The issue that the lockers are too small to fit both sport bag and school bag in was raised again
- Reiterated that the locker footprint has been reduced significantly due to the JHN Learning Hub. It was decided that no lockers are to be placed in any learning building corridor
- We are now living in a digital age / text book world and theoretically students do not require a big locker
- The College has provided a series of rooms around the Marcellin Campus for students who bring and want to store multiple bags
- It is both the College and family's responsibility to educate students how to best organise/pack their locker
- Students wishing to use a large locker can speak to their Leader of Wellbeing
- Years 11 and 12 students can choose to use a locker or to carry their bag to each class

### Brand and Community Perception

The College needs to increase the focus on the school brand / look and feel.

### Volunteering Opportunities

Is there an opportunity to increase offsite volunteering opportunities.

### Building ICT Skills (Particularly in Year 7)

Workshops to provide consistency in skills development.

### Phone Policy

- Reiterate with students the College's expectations
- The College can do more

### Religion in the curriculum

- As part of the Bishops Mandate, Religion is mandatory
- The College needs to engage students' interest in the way in which it is taught

### Primary Social Committee

- Is there a committee in 2021?
- John Finneran to follow-up and communicate to the Primary community

## **7. Upcoming Events**

### Newman Parents

#### **A Night with Maggie Dent - Real Kids in an Unreal World: Building Resilience and Self-esteem in Today's Children (10 Resilience Building Blocks)**

Are you worried, confused or concerned about parenting in today's chaotic world? Children need to have certain basic experiences to build the competencies that will help them manage life – the good, the bad and the ugly. Maggie has developed a common-sense, practical model of 10 building blocks that will reassure parents that what we have always known to be important in the early years of a child's life is still important. This seminar will offer you practical, common-sense ideas and strategies to make small changes in your home, which will make a big difference to your children's cognitive, physical, psychological, emotional and social health later in life.

**When:** Tuesday 8 June, 7.00pm

**Where:** Marist Auditorium

**RSVP:** Spaces are limited for this FREE event. Email [nicole.dyt@cewa.edu.au](mailto:nicole.dyt@cewa.edu.au)

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm**

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