



## From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Catholic schools throughout the world, seek to engage successfully in the requisite public assessment regimes pertaining to their national or state jurisdiction. Confidence of parents and the community in the quality of the education offered in Catholic schools must be assured if they are to succeed. In Australia, as early as 1890, the Marists attracted the attention of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Daily Telegraph* for the success of their students at St Mary's Cathedral and St Joseph's Hunters Hill in the high profile and challenging NSW Senior Public Exams. The high performance of these schools was especially noteworthy considering their limited resource base when compared with schools owned and funded by the government<sup>1</sup>.

In 2020, one of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic was the abandonment of the annual National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. This important assessment of Australian students' learning progress will resume again today. Whilst the results of the assessments are some months away, there are some important modifications to the presentation of NAPLAN data on the *My School* website that illustrate healthy emphases by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)<sup>2</sup>.

Following the 2019 review into NAPLAN data reporting on *My School*, the Australian education ministers from every State and Territory agreed in December 2019 to overhaul the way NAPLAN data is presented on the website. There are now fewer displays of NAPLAN data but **there is a stronger focus on student progress**. Whilst the changes to reporting NAPLAN data on the *My School* website were described in a media release on 18 March 2020, the reality has been that with the suspension of NAPLAN last year due to the pandemic, the changes have not received the attention they deserve.

Marist Schools Australia has long been advocating<sup>3</sup> such emphases in the reporting of NAPLAN data and it was pleasing to see many other organisations and stakeholders in education applaud these changes, including the National Catholic Education Commission<sup>4</sup>, Catholic Secondary Principals Association, Catholic School Parents Australia, Australian Parents Council, and Australian Council of State School Organisations<sup>5</sup>. Gain factors or measures of student progress are widely accepted in educational research as more reliable indicators of the contributions of a school to a student's learning. Significantly, such measures are recognised as an improvement on status measures for comparing contributions that schools make to students' achievement<sup>6</sup>. Parents and teachers throughout Australia will instinctively relate to these changes as a positive step. The progress of every child, no matter their "starting point" is what matters most.

In 2021 as our students across the country sit the NAPLAN tests, it is important for us as educators to be familiar with what is, and will be, publicly communicated about our schools. The 2021 results will be represented in two important ways as illustrated. Figure 1 shows the selected school's average student progress when compared to students with the same starting score and students from statistically similar backgrounds. Figure 2 shows the percentage of students at the school who achieved above average progress, compared to students of a similar background and who had the same starting score on their previous NAPLAN test.

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Figure 1: The selected school's average performance in comparison with SSSB and SSSS.

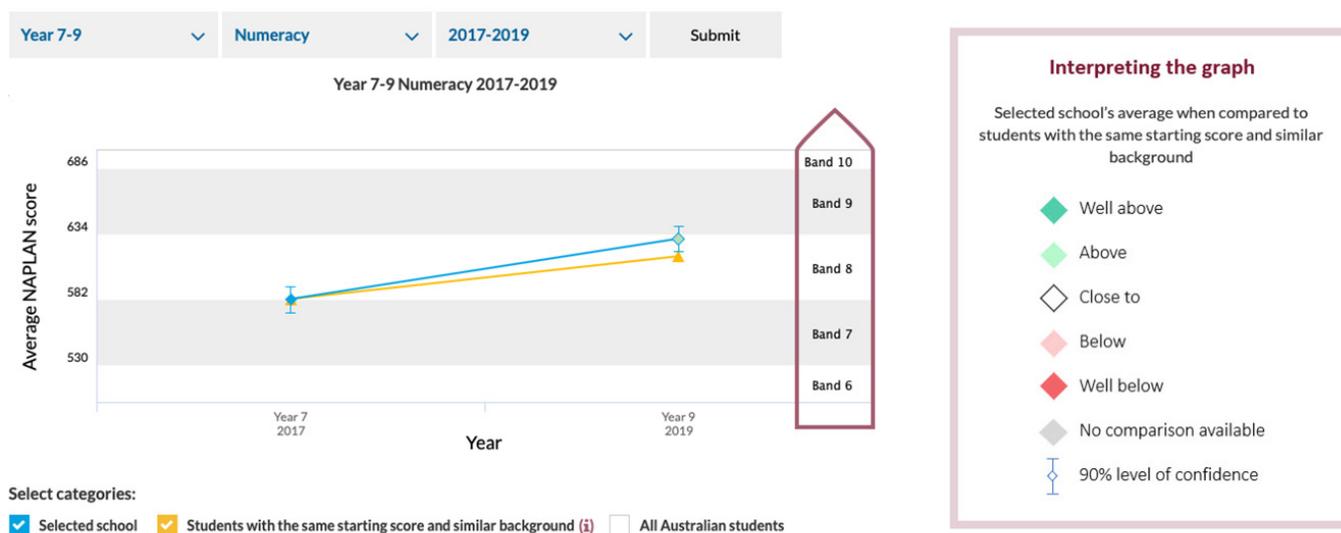


Figure 2: Percentage of students making above average progress

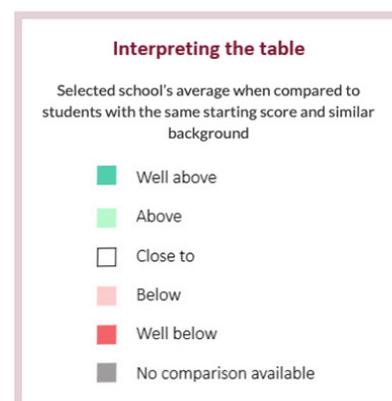
## Percentage of students making above average progress



The table below shows the percentage of students at the school who achieved above average progress, compared to students of a [similar background](#) and who had the [same starting score](#) on their previous NAPLAN test.

	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019
Reading	59	53	56	52	49	43
Writing	43	48	40	53	56	43
Numeracy	69	64	59	65	58	62

<sup>NB</sup> In 2020 education ministers' decided that NAPLAN testing would not proceed that year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



It is worth noting the current CEO of ACARA, Mr David de Carvalho, has had a significant influence in these developments. David is no stranger to we Marists having served on the Board of Marist College Canberra whilst a parent there in the early 2000s. Educated by the Jesuits at school and in formation, his long commitment to education is illustrated by his distinguished contributions over many years to the sector. David joined ACARA in March 2019, bringing a wealth of leadership experience and service at both the Commonwealth and State Government level. He was Chief Executive Officer of NESAs from January 2017 until February 2019. Prior to that, he was Deputy Secretary at the NSW Department of Family and Community Services. David has also led the National Catholic Education Commission and was Head of the Higher Education Division in the Federal Government Department of Education. He started his career as a secondary school teacher and has served on the boards of the Australian Council for Educational Research and the Curriculum Corporation (now Education Services Australia).

*“These changes are being made to help parents and school authorities focus more on how a school is performing in terms of student progress i.e. improving literacy and numeracy outcomes over the two years since the previous NAPLAN tests, and less on ‘school versus school’ comparisons that only take account of overall levels of achievement,”*

ACARA CEO, David de Carvalho

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May the 2021 NAPLAN tests provide useful external learning progress data for teachers, parents and students to reflect upon in a manner that is proportionate with all other rich formative, summative and professional observational assessments that occur in our schools each day.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1. Doyle, A (1972) *Marist Brothers in Australia 1872-1972* Marist Brothers Drummoynes, Sydney.
2. The independent statutory authority, which is an instrument of all the Australian education ministers through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council. ACARA is charged with responsibility for the development and ongoing refinement of the Australian curriculum, national assessment including NAPLAN, and reporting on schooling in Australia.
3. Lavalla Vol 23 October 2017, Vol 24 July 2018
4. [https://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au/images/18032020\\_MR\\_Catholic\\_sector\\_welcomes\\_My\\_School\\_changes.pdf](https://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au/images/18032020_MR_Catholic_sector_welcomes_My_School_changes.pdf)
5. [https://www.acara.edu.au/docs/default-source/Media-Releases/my-school-2020-media-release\\_final.pdf?sfvrsn=5aaa7007\\_2](https://www.acara.edu.au/docs/default-source/Media-Releases/my-school-2020-media-release_final.pdf?sfvrsn=5aaa7007_2)
6. Malloy, F (2015) *The Use of NAPLAN Data in Catholic Schools*. Australian Catholic University. (<https://acuresearchbank.acu.edu.au/item/88z2w/the-use-of-naplan-data-in-catholic-schools>)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, NSW - Head of College**

Please click [HERE](#) for more information

Applications close 21 May 2021

**St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, NSW - Human Resources, Risk and Compliance Co-ordinator**

Please click [HERE](#) for more information

Applications close 21 May 2021

**The John Berne School, Lewisham, NSW**

School Psychologist (full-time). Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

School Psychologist (part-time). Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

Applications close 31 May 2021

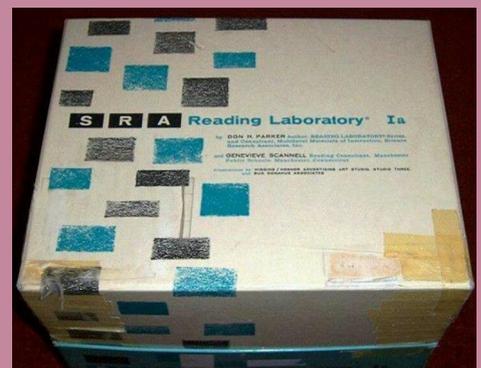
## REQUEST FOR READERS

A call for assistance from Brother Matthew Green has been received. Brother Matthew works in the Formation House at Baucau, East Timor.

There are very few accessible English reading materials available for the Postulants. Brother Matthew is seeking to secure any SRA Readers schools may still have that are no longer utilised. These would be perfect as they are well designed and organised according to ability levels and self directed progression.

If there are any unused or discarded sets lying in the back of a library or resource room, these would be gratefully received.

Please contact [sally.dillon@marists.org.au](mailto:sally.dillon@marists.org.au) if you can be of any assistance.



## CONSENT EDUCATION

[CONSENT EDUCATION](#) is a new venture of [Caitlin Humphrys](#). Caitlin has spent 17 years working with teenagers, predominantly in personal and leadership development within secondary schools.

Consent Education aims to offer a comprehensive curriculum that covers age appropriate topics from years 6 through to 12. The topics are designed to build upon each other so that at its completion the students have gained a deep understanding of consent, healthy relationships, and the dignity of the human person. These topics are delivered via interactive, conversational style seminars that range in length from 45 minutes for year 6 students, to 120 minutes for year 12 students.

Caitlin can be contacted by email at [caitlin@consenteducation.com.au](mailto:caitlin@consenteducation.com.au).



**Above:** A spectacular reminder of this year's theme looking out from the staff room at Mount Carmel Catholic College Varroville.

Enjoying the day at the Hermitage, the staff of Parramatta Marist High School participated in the ***Breathe - the Spirit of Life*** Program



**Left to Right:** Trevor Chippendale, Michael Toulson and Gina Mari

*The Spirit is like a bird, fragile alloy of heaven and earth, where wind and feather and flight meets breath and blood and bones. Like a dove, she glided over the primordial waters, hovered above Mary's womb, and descended onto Jesus' dripping wet head. She protected Israel like an eagle, and like a hen, brooded over her chicks. "Hide me in the shadow of your wings," the poet king wrote. "Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 17:8, 63:7). The Spirit is as common as a cooing pigeon and transcendent as a high-flying eagle. So, look up and sing back, catch the light of God in a diaphanous scrim of wing.*

(#SearchingForSunday  
<http://rachelheldevans.com/>)

**How long it has been since the wonder of God took your breath away?**



**Left to Right:** Zara Pappas, Andrew Houseman and Sandy David



**Left to Right:** Jacqui Smith, Carolyn Noakes, Maureen Curran, Liza Fitzpatrick and Michael Winmill at St Thomas More Primary School, Sunshine Beach

## AMS Community Gatherings

After more than a year confined to our screens, Australian Marist Solidarity can't wait to come and catch up with you in person at our upcoming AMS Community Gatherings.

We hope that you will be able to join our CEO, Bec Bromhead, and other AMS team members, supporters and members of our broader Marist community to hear updates from our projects across the region and connect to celebrate the wonderful work we've been able to continue even during the most challenging circumstances, work that wouldn't be possible without your support.

### Adelaide Community Gathering:

Sacred Heart College (Marcellin Campus) is generously hosting us

On Wednesday 19th May

From 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Refreshments will be provided

Please register [HERE](#) to join us!

### Sydney Community Gathering:

Parramatta Marist High School is generously hosting us

On Thursday 27th May

From 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Refreshments will be provided

Please register [HERE](#) to join us!

## Follow us!

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 [Australian Marist Solidarity](#)

 [@AusMSol](#)

 [Australian Marist Solidarity](#)

## Let Children Learn Appeal Launch



## Donate today to build a new school for the future leaders of Bougainville.

St Joseph's School, Mabiri, only operates until year 10. In fact, there are currently only four upper secondary schools in the whole of Bougainville. That means only 1 in 4 children will reach upper secondary school due to the scarcity of schools.

Imagine if you, your child, grandchild or loved one would not graduate high school?

**Please donate** to help build a new school so that children like Noah can finish their education and fulfill their dreams.

## Noah's Story

Noah is a bright, high-achieving student in Bougainville, PNG.

He's smart enough to follow his dreams to be a teacher.

But Noah won't be able to. His school doesn't offer education beyond year 10, and his parents can't afford the travel costs for him to get to another school that extends to year 12. In fact, there are only four senior secondary high schools in the whole of Bougainville.

Will you donate today to help children like Noah? A donation of \$181 could pay for school diaries for a classroom of Year 11 students.



# MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Update

## MYM NSW/ACT

### Year 12 Forum

The Year 12 Mission Forum was attended by 40 deeply passionate Year 12 students! We are grateful to Shannon Thorne (Marist 180), who joined us to speak about issues that Indigenous people face today. In addition to living within an unjust system, students gained an insight into the intergenerational trauma that our Indigenous brothers and sisters suffer.

Furthermore, students took time to just 'breathe' in prayer, students explored the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Students focused on making a difference in areas of gender equality, racial discrimination and climate change.



Mount Carmel Catholic College



St Patrick's Marist College

We are grateful for the support of Principals and supervising staff from:

St Gregory's College, Campbelltown  
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas  
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes  
All Saints, Maitland  
Marcellin College, Randwick  
Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville



St Gregory's College

# MYM NSW/ACT

GAME CHANGERS

## Year 7 GC Recruitment at St Joseph's Catholic College

Daniel and Mon had fun introducing the Game Changers program to the Year 7 students at Joey's on Tuesday, 4 May. Great to see 19 young men sign up to the exciting program to be a 'Game Changer'!



St Joseph's Game Changers Introduction



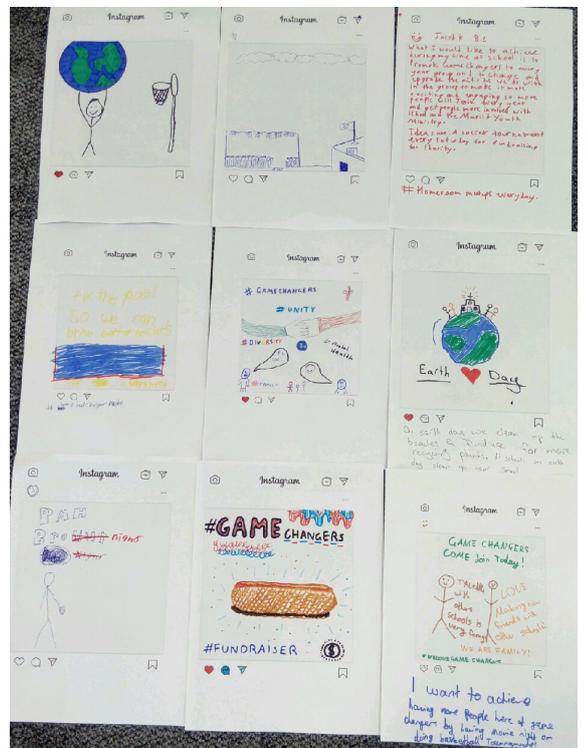
Parramatta Marist

## Year 8 GC Regional Retreat Day

Ashley and Daniel enjoyed leading Year 8's from Parramatta Marist and St Joseph's College in their Game Changers regional retreat!



St Joseph's Catholic College



# MYM PERTH

Marist Youth Ministry Perth worked with students at Newman College, to facilitate their Game Changers retreat days. Students in years 10 and 11 had the opportunity to look at topics such as vocation, service, support networks and God's role in the decisions they make.



YR 11 Hermitage Retreat Day



Marist Connect - Newman College and St Joseph's Northam

The MYM Team had the opportunity to host our very first Marist Connect night at St Joseph's School in Northam. Students were given the opportunity to connect and, discuss ways in which they can grow their social circles and neighbourhood.

# MYM ADELAIDE

## Game Changers:

Le Rosey Retreat Day - June 28th

La Valla Retreat Day - May 31st

Hermitage Regional Retreat Day - May 24th

## Connect Night:

Marist Connect - June 17th

