



MARIST COLLEGE

Catholic School for Girls, Years 7 to 13

Term 1 - Number 3
Friday, 20 February 2026

From the Principal

On Shove Tuesday a group of teachers attended this year's Catholic Education Dedication Mass celebrated by Bishop Steve Lowe. In his homily, Bishop Steve spoke of St Carlo Acutis, a young man who died in 2006 at the age of 15 and was known for his devotion to the Eucharist and his use of digital media to promote Catholic devotion.



The powerful messages shared in this homily are so relevant as we enter Lent and provide us a guide for prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

Messages from St Carlo Acutis

- 1 **"The Eucharist is my highway to heaven."** Make your faith practical and consistent. Holiness is built through daily commitment, not occasional inspiration. The habits you build every day shape the person you become.
- 2 **"Be original, not a photocopy."** All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies. God created you uniquely. Do not dilute who you are to fit in.
- 3 **"Use technology for good."** Carlo used his computer skills to create a website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles around the world. Technology is not the enemy. It depends on how we use it. Social media can distract, or it can inspire. Be intentional about your digital footprint.
- 4 **"Kindness is a quiet revolution."** Holiness is practical. It looks like compassion, inclusion, and courage in everyday moments. Small acts of kindness change lives. Be brave enough to stand beside someone who feels alone.
- 5 **"Heaven is the goal."** Keep eternal perspective. Life is short, but purpose is eternal. Live with heaven in mind. Let your daily choices reflect your deepest values.



I pray that over Lent we embrace new habits, deepen our faith and allow us to grow as people.

- Thank you to Ms Sinai Siakumi and the Special Character Team for organising our Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Inaugural Mass. Both were such spiritual experiences, and it was lovely to share these moments with our wider Marist Community.
- Thank you to the staff who organised Tuesday's swimming sports. It was great to see so many students taking part. Congratulations to the staff who won the staff versus students' relay!
- Thank you to the whānau who have already made donations towards equipment for our new fitness centre. We aim to have this centre open by the end of the term. All students will be eligible to use this facility. Please continue to support this initiative by donating or purchasing a piece of gym equipment <https://www.maristcollege.school.nz/new-gym-donations>

Te Aroha o Te Atua, *Raechelle Tauku*, Principal/Tumuaki

KEY DATES

Term 1 2026

Week 5A

Feb 23	Mo	Photo/House Day Senior Touch Tournament
24	Tu	Aquathon, St Kents
25	We	NES Assembly/Liturgy/ Academic Y13 Marist Day Prep P5
26	Th	12LT Mass, St Mary's Church 8:20am Whakapiki Ake talk B2, 308
26 & 27		Open Days, 9am tours
27	Fr	Whanau time Rotation 3 - 2
28	Sa	Kapa Haka 9am-3pm Filipino Group 1:30-4:30pm Shinagawa students arrive
Mar 1	Su	Show Rehearsals 11am-5pm, 218, 219, 220, Gym

Week 6B

Mar 3	Tu	Hui, 6:30pm staffroom
4	We	Y7 Boostrix (1) / Y8 HPV (1) Gym No Assembly
5	Th	12ES Mass, St Mary's Church, 8:20am Evacuation practice P3 Cook Island trip meeting 5-6pm
		Fono, 6:30-8pm, staffroom
5 & 6		Y7 Retreats (Whānau Maria)
6	Fr	PTFA Golf Day Assembly/Student Council/ Service Leader Rotation 2 - 1
7	Sa	Kapa Haka 9am-3pm Filipino Group 1:30-4:30pm
8	Su	Show Rehearsals 11am-5pm, 218, 219, 220, Gym

Upcoming Events:

Mar 9	Mo	Cybersafety talks
10	Tu	Athletics Day, Mt Smart Central Zone Tennis
12	Th	Family Festival, 4-7:30pm
13	Fr	Y11-13 Drama trip P2-B2 ASB Waterfront Theatre
16	Mo	NCEA info evening 6pm Photo catchup day PTFA Meeting 7pm
17	Tu	Y12 Loves Me Not Y11 Art, Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae visit 12:45 - 3pm Shinagawa students leave
18 - 21		Polyfest - Pasifika & Diversity Stages, Manukau Sports Bowl
20	Fr	Y9 Ki o Rahi
23 - 24		Y13 PE Camp
23 - 27		Lumino Dental onsite
24	Tu	Y13 Business, Young Enterprise Shark Tank, 8-10:30am

For a full school calendar go to
<https://www.maristcollege.school.nz/calendar>



EMPOWERMENT IN MARY'S WAY

Whakamana i Te Ara o Maria

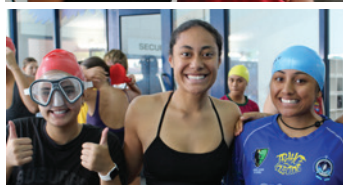
Inaugural Mass

20 February 2026

A stylized graphic in the top right corner of the header, showing two hands in white and blue holding a figure, set against a colorful, abstract background of blue, yellow, and red.



Swimming Sports 2026

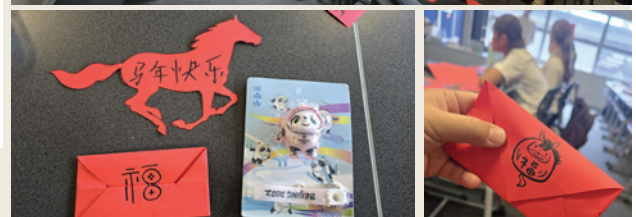


International Students

This week was auspicious with the celebration of the Lunar New Year of the Horse. We had some activities for students at school who shared their wishes for the year and enjoyed some snacks. The year of the horse competition and creation of the red envelopes was fun and we squeezed it all into break 2! This week also sees the start of Ramadan which also follows the Hijri (lunar) calendar.

Also, on Tuesday the 24th of February, we will do our annual photoshoot and have asked students to sign up here <https://maristinternational.wufoo.com/forms/2026-marist-college-photoshoot/> if they're keen. Our international audience enjoy seeing the school and our students who proudly represent it in the photos.

Follow us here for all the international updates!
[MaristCollegeAucklandINT](https://www.maristcollegeaucklandint.com/)



Lunar New Year Activities

As we welcomed the Year of the Horse, our school community celebrated Chinese New Year with a lively and hands-on workshop. We were delighted to host our Mandarin Language Assistant, Mr. Xiao, from Fudan University in Shanghai. He shared the customs and traditions of Chinese New Year, along with the history of Chinese paper cutting and its meaning in bringing good fortune. Students created detailed paper cuttings of a galloping horse, symbolising strength and perseverance. On the front, they wrote a traditional good-luck phrase, and on the back, their personal wish for the year ahead. These artworks will be displayed in the Level 3 atrium during our celebration period.

They also folded red paper into traditional red envelopes and placed inside a “Wang Wang” rice cracker — a favourite treat in Chinese class that represents prosperity. Three prizes were awarded to the fastest students to complete both activities. Class 7R enjoyed an especially festive lesson on New Year’s Day, while 8T will celebrate on Day 2 of the festivities. Both classes are learning about the special meaning of each day of the New Year celebration. It has been a joyful and meaningful cultural experience for our students.

MARIST COLLEGE *Open Day*

Tours at 9am
26th & 27th February

Whānau Hui Tuatahi

Thursday 3rd March, 6:30pm

Welcome new whānau members
and whakawhanaungatanga

Meet the 2026 Kaiāwhina and Kōmiti Māori and hear about
their goals for 2026. Find out about Māori events and kaupapa
in 2026, including a S.M.A.R.T goal setting hui in Term 2.

Update on piupiu fundraising initiatives.

Please bring a plate of food to share.

Marist School & Marist College

Golf Day

Maungakiekie Golf Club

Friday 6th March 2026

12pm for a 12:30pm Shotgun Start

Format: 4-Person Ambrose

Tickets are available online at

<https://www.maristcollege.school.nz/2026-golf-day>

Price:

Individual Player: \$130

Team of Four: \$480

Team of Four & Hole Sponsorship: \$580

Price includes course fees,
on-course sausage sizzle and
snacks, beer and non-alcoholic
drinks, and dinner afterwards.

Raffles and auctions in the
clubhouse from 5pm,
with cash bar.

Golf carts \$75 each - limited numbers so first in, first served.



It's Fono Time

EMPOWERMENT IN MARY'S WAY
Whakamana i Te Ara o Maria

Thursday 5th March

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Focus: Talanoa Planning

Meet in the staffroom and please bring a plate of food to share.

RSVP your attendance by filling in this [Form](#).

Fa'afetai, Mālō 'aupito, Meitaki maata

Veronica Verschuur, Food Technology & Pasifika Liaison Teacher



MARIST COLLEGE
Family Festival 2026
Thursday 12 March
4 - 7:30pm

Our annual Family Festival celebrates our diverse school community and special character with cultural performances and tasty cuisines.

Donations needed for raffles and prizes!

- **Donate items from home:** gourmet food, vouchers, beauty products, unwanted xmas gifts, wine/spirits. Please send into the office, with the House name, so girls can earn House points.
- **Donate a bulk food bundle** to help serve tasty cuisines on food stalls
<https://www.maristcollege.school.nz/2026-donation-family-festival>

Every little bit helps, thank you!

Marist Homestay Families are in Demand!

Thank you to the families who are currently hosting our international students. We have more overseas families wanting their daughter to live with a Marist student and be part of a caring family. If you'd also like to be part of the homestay whanau, please complete the form for us here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FG4AYRDFhQ857bn_TrOgcw4ZjIMPbvPUGDBni-ZE5Fo/edit and/or email us on homestay@maristcollege.school.nz if you have any queries about what's involved.

Co Lab

is back for 2026! Come to the library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:15pm for support with your homework. Find the [CoLab roster here](#)

School Charges

The 2026 school charges have been loaded on your daughter's account. However, if your daughter has entered the Cambridge Examination, charges for this will need to be added. For any new charge I will always issue a statement.

Please ensure you have a payment plan in place that will fully clear the account by the 31st of October 2026. If you elected to pay per Term - Term 1 is now due for payment.

If you need to discuss the account or arrange a payment plan, please do not hesitate to contact Veronica Yates v.yates@maristcollege.school.nz.

Extra-Curricular Activities

If your daughter joins up for any extra-curricular activity a statement will be issued and a due date for payment given. You are welcome to set up a separate payment plan for these activities, please contact Veronica Yates.

Tax Donation Certificate (31/03/2026)

The Tax Donation Certificate for the year ending 31st of March 2026 will be emailed out in the first week of April. Please use this form to claim back up to 33.3% from the Inland Revenue. You can claim back as far as 2022 (4 years). If you require previous years' Tax Donations Certificates, please email your request to v.yates@maristcollege.school.nz.

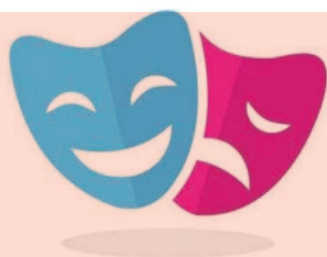
Unidentified payment

We have received a payment with no reference details and are unable to allocate the funds until we have identified the student the payment belongs to.

The payment was made on the 13th of February 2026.

You will need to provide us proof (Bank transaction with the exact amount paid). Please contact v.yates@maristcollege.school.nz.

Please ensure all payments have your daughter's name and student ID number included.



KIDS 4 DRAMA
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS
EST. 1991

Kids 4 Drama has a new monthly programme taking place in Mt Albert on the 1st Saturday of each month based at Marist College. A monthly workshop based club that teaches practical performance skills for children and teenagers.

Check it out at www.kids4drama.org or enrol at <https://kids-4-drama.classforkids.io/>

Email stephenkids4drama@gmail.com to find out more or to arrange a one off session trial.

Getting active

and building healthy habits is important for wellbeing

Help us build a new Fitness Centre for our students

Optional contributions include purchasing gym equipment or donating toward the fitness centre setup. All donors will have their names added to our sponsorship wall.

Go to our online store for details and contributions:

<https://www.maristcollege.school.nz/new-gym-donations>

Includes contributions for Treadmills, Elliptical Trainers, Spin Bikes, Mag Rowers; Fid Bench, Hex Dumbbell Racks and Dumbbells 1-10 Kg Pairs; Kettlebells; or general donation amounts ranging from \$50 - \$500

Any queries please contact admin@maristcollege.school.nz



MARIST COLLEGE

Trip for Years 7 to 10



Cook Islands

23 - 30
September
2026

Expression of Interest - Contact:

Ms Sinai Siakumi s.siakumi@maristcollege.school.nz

Mrs Veronica Verschuur v.verschuur@maristcollege.school.nz