Time and Space Program

Many changes take place in adolescence and the transition through the Junior School is not necessarily an easy path – for mothers as well as students. Last Tuesday evening the Year 7 Mother and Son Night was facilitated by Mr. Bill Jennings from Melbourne, to provide “time and space” for mothers to connect with their sons and talk with other mothers in a similar position.

I have placed an article from Bill Jennings on his reflection of the evening and he has included comments from both the boys and mothers regarding the evening.

By Bill Jennings – Time and Space Director:

Thanks to Mark Ashmore for the opportunity to write to you about the recent Time & Space for Mothers and Sons night at your school.

Your legendary Chaplain – Father John Carnie is an old friend who used to be part of a youth ministry team with me back in the 80’s. He used to always stir the inter-school rivalries and never missed an opportunity to refer to Marcellin as Melbourne’s leading Catholic boys’ school!

It was privilege to work with your staff and parents in bringing the night to such a huge group of participant mums and mentors and their Year 7 boys. Over 260 people registered for the event and Marcellin provided a first for this program with Mark Ashmore’s innovative idea - a significant number of the small group leaders were your Year 12 leaders. As an ‘outsider’ the special Marcellin character was evident in these fine young men who were so keen to assist: in their small group role; the practical preparation and their welcome of the participants. Luke Anania and Casey Filips made reference to the ‘Marcellin community’ more than once in their panel presentations – I was gleaning an insight into that special leadership that Father John proudly proclaims. Your boys are part of a great community.

Below I offer you a few comments that participants wrote regarding the evening.

From the Year 7 Boys

It was a good experience and it was a good insight into what my mum felt.
It was good because I found out things about me and my mum.
Good to hear stuff I didn’t know.
It was fantastic spending time with my mum!

From the Mums & Mentors

I really enjoyed connecting with my son in his new environment.
I was so impressed with the boys, how poised they were.
Felt more connected to my son than I have for some time.
Extremely impressed with (the Year 12) group leader.
It was so rewarding and memorable. My son is lucky to be at Marcellin & have these experiences – some of us (parents) didn’t.

I think that last comment captures the special atmosphere that I witnessed at your school.

Thanks Marcellin College,
Bill Jennings – Director of Time & Space

Subscribe to my weekly blog posts by going to http://bill-j-from-time-space.blogspot.com/
I would like to thank the staff, senior students and parents for their help as panel members or group leaders, and to the mothers and Year 7 boys for making the night so memorable.

The Year 8 Father Son Evening was Tuesday this week and allowed an opportunity for the fathers and mentors to “step up” and become a greater part of their sons life through adolescence in the transition from boy to man. I will document the success of this evening in next weeks Eagle.

For the Year 9’s – be on the lookout for the canoeing father-son *Time & Space* adventure happening in Term 4.