On Friday, 20th May, 2011 the SRC team attended a ‘Student Voice Panel’ for ‘Beginning New Scheme Teachers’ at the St Joseph’s Spirituality Centre at Baulkham Hills.

When we arrived at the centre we were greeted by Mrs Mary Cook who gave us our name badges. We were also introduced to 6 students from Nagle Girls College and 3 students from Holy Cross Primary Glenwood who were also on the student panel. Once the student panel was ready we were all given a piece of gold string by Mr Phil Shirvington, which represented our preciousness.

We were then taken into the main meeting hall and were invited to sit in red velvet chairs at the front of a group of 30 - 40 teachers. Mr Shirvington then asked us a series of questions and we responded one by one using a microphone.

Questions include:

- # What would you say to your teachers to help them feel good about what they are doing?
- # What would you say to your teachers to help you to learn better?
- # Tell us a time when you found it easy to learn something.
- # Tell us about a time when it was difficult to learn something.
- # When learning is best for you what does it look, sound and feel like?
- # In one word, describe the quality that you most like about your teacher.

After we answered these questions we all spread out to different tables where the teachers were assembled and answered more questions and talked with the teachers.

After this we were taken to a room where we ate a delicious morning tea of chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate. We were able to mingle with the kids from the other schools.

We had an awesome experience and learnt a lot from it. We all gained confidence from the experience. It was an epic day that we all enjoyed."
Mary Help of Christians Prayer Celebration

On Tuesday 24th May, we celebrate the feast day of Mary, Help of Christians, the patroness of Australia. A prayer celebration will be held in the MPA at 10.30am led by Year 2. Children are invited to bring along their rosary beads if they have some to participate in praying the rosary.

World Youth Day visit by Terra Sancta

We all remember the exciting events of WYD in Sydney in 2008.

It is time again for this international gathering of Catholic youth from around the world. WYD 2011 will be in Madrid, Spain from August 16-21. Today we had a visit from the group of 7 students and 2 teachers from Terra Sancta who will be attending WYD. They led us in prayer and reflection about the meaning and message of World Youth Day. The theme ‘Planted and Built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith’ is a message for all young people. All Primary and High Schools across the diocese have been invited to get involved in the WYD spirit.

On Monday 25th July we will be holding a MIPS Youth of the World Day where our students will have a mufti day and be involved in multicultural games and activities, prayer, and each family will receive a WYD bandana. The cost will be $5 per family and money raised will go towards supporting the students from Terra Sancta and those high school students across the diocese to attend WYD in Madrid in August.

MIPS Parish Mass

Our annual school Parish Mass is this Sunday 29th May at 9am at Mary Immaculate Church. Thank you to all those families who have indicated they will be attending. Families are asked to be at the Church at 8.45am so that we can all sit together as a school group. We will also be having a small morning tea after the Mass in the MPA which everyone is welcome to join us for. If you have not yet returned the note but would still like to come along, you are more than welcome. The children will be preparing for this celebration throughout the week.

Sacramental Program Practice Evening

There is a practice evening this Tuesday 24th May commencing at 7.30pm in the Church for all children involved in the Sacramental program for Confirmation and Eucharist.

The “Come and Try” AFL Six Week Program

Mary Immaculate has been asked to be involved with an after school AFL program starting on Monday, May 23 from 3.30pm - 4.30pm on Patterson Reserve (behind the school). Cost for the 6 weeks is $35.00 which includes the backpack full of various items. Brochures have been given to the children regarding this opportunity. If you need more details please see Cathy Vogt.

Congratulations

To Stephanie Arulthasan (3P) who participated in Parramatta Eisteddfod for Speech and Drama on Sunday 15/05/11 for 8 years and under and achieved two first places for Reading and poetry. Also she achieved a credit pass in grade 3 piano exam conducted by AMEB on Monday 16/05/11. Well done Stephanie.

Updated Uniform

As mentioned in previous letters to the parent community, the updated uniform has been finalised. We now have the full range of samples for the children and parents to view prior to the uniform going on sale through next term. The updated uniform can be seen in the MPA during this week and after that the samples will be positioned in the foyer for parents to view. This is a very exciting part of the life at Mary Immaculate at the moment. Many thanks to the uniform committee who continue to generously give of their time and skills in finalising the uniform. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Child Protection

Child protection is a central issue for all schools. At Mary Immaculate, we follow the guidelines outlined by the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta in ensuring that our practices align to the legal requirements at all times. Today, you will receive a letter explaining the current requirements for parents helpers / volunteers at MIPS and the steps you need to undertake if you wish to assist our school as a helper or volunteer. Please take the time to read the letter to understand the system requirements and follow up any questions with Mrs Ducksbury, Mr Troy or Mr Devlin. At MIPS we warmly welcome all parent helpers and volunteers and we endeavour to make all processes as ‘user friendly’ as possible.

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ICAS Computer Skills Test

A reminder to all students in Years 3-6 sitting the Computer Skills test that it is this Tuesday 24th May in the morning session.