

## NEWSLETTER No. 5 – Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009

*Dear Parents, Students and Staff,*

*On Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March we celebrated our Opening Mass and it was a very special occasion. We were fortunate to have Bishop Peter Connors lead our gathering and our Parish Priest, Fr Tom Brophy and Frs Matt, Paul and Pat assisted. Among our special guests were Sr Kath Tierney RSM, Congregation Leader; Patricia Ryan, MSEI Chairperson; Bill Slatter, Catholic Education Office and Srs Madeline, Marion, Rosemary and Patricia. Thank you to the many people who prepared for our liturgy. Mr Tony Finn and Fr Matt for liturgy, Mr Nick Jack and Mrs Janine Kerr for music and dance, and Mrs Fiona Pike for co-ordinating McAuley house's contribution.*

*At our Opening Mass we celebrate our leaders, as well as welcoming the new students to the College. I was very impressed with the way our College leadership teams approached the Bishop, Mr Towns and myself to collect their badges and then made their pledge to serve our community. Sr Kath addressed our gathering on the richness of our Mercy heritage and Ms Ryan commissioned me as the new Principal. It was a great occasion and reinforced the importance of keeping the Mercy story alive and flourishing as we commence an era of lay leadership.*

*In my response to our gathering I was able to talk to the students about what it means to be a leader. Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, modelled her life of service on the example of Jesus. She asks the Sisters who have followed to do likewise. As leaders at St Josephs College we need look no further than these Sisters and our mission statement to understand what it means to lead in our community. We are asked to demonstrate:*

- **Spirituality:** *we should nurture in the individual and the community, a sense of being connected to God.*
- **Compassion:** *we must create a place of hope and love and compassionately seek to empathise with and respond to others in a spirit of mercy.*
- **Justice:** *we must promote justice, opportunity and equity through the awareness of the rights and responsibilities of all.*
- **Excellence:** *we need to encourage and celebrate the development of excellence within the College community.*
- **Hospitality:** *hospitality is experienced by creating a welcoming and friendly environment.*
- **Community:** *community means belonging, respect, support and commitment as partnerships develop.*
- **Service:** *service means seeking and providing a Mercy mission within and beyond the St Joseph's College community.*

*If we all work collectively towards the same goal, to make St Josephs College a place where we all feel welcome to develop our rich talents, each individual will be able to play their part and our collective success is assured.*

*Congratulations to our students on their participation and conduct during Mass. Our special guests made comment that the student behavior was exemplary.*

**Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal**



## PRAYER

God of new beginnings, this week we celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

As a community, we will face many challenges and opportunities to grow. We seek your presence and influence in all that we say and do this important year. May we work with fairness and justice with all members as we build a strong College community.

We pray for our new College Principal, Mr Darren Atkinson, our staff, our students and our families, that justice and integrity, in Mercy, will be alive in all their actions and decisions.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## INSIGHT SRC - SCHOOL HEALTH SURVEY

During March, a random sample of parents and students will be asked to participate in a survey to provide feedback to the college on a range of matters to do with student wellbeing, learning, and communication. The feedback from these surveys will assist the college in developing an Annual Action Plan and will also contribute to our development of a School Improvement Framework. More information will come to those who have been selected to participate. Thank you in advance.

## LENT - THEME: MAKING GOOD DECISIONS AND THINKING OF OTHERS

Last week, our Ash Wednesday liturgy was conducted in joint House settings. Students had the opportunity to participate in the receiving of ashes on their foreheads as a symbol of their commitment to improve their decisions and to acknowledge the love of God in their lives. The readings for this week speak of making good choices when confronted by temptations that can lead to self-centred, rather than other-centred. Mr Atkinson's address in our Mass on Tuesday focused on the theme of service to others and the need for each of us to step up and accept responsibility for the needs of others. Project Compassion is one way in which we, as a school community, are responding to this call. This allows us as individuals and as a group to acknowledge that we know that we can respond and that we have choices in how we respond or remain inactive in the face of the call to be of service to others this Lent.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A number of our Year 8 students in Religious Education have been responding to the tragic events of 7<sup>th</sup> February, the worst bushfires in Victoria. They have, through sending cards, responded with some heart felt expression of support. Here are a couple of samples from the students:

*"To the heroes of our country, everyone in Australia is very proud of you and the bravery you have shown towards the bushfires. Your courage and kindness would surely lift everyone's spirits in this tragic time. Keep going and remember that we are looking up to you for the support you show." - Emily.*

*"Dear all those affected by the fires, we are extremely devastated to hear about your unfortunate circumstances and tragic losses. Nothing can make it better or replace*

*your loved ones, but we just want you to know that our thoughts and prayers will forever be with you. We hope that you can rebuild your lives, never forgetting your loved ones, but always celebrating the time you shared with them. Our thoughts are with you always." - Molly Thespina.*

These letters will be sent through to the CFA to be distributed to those who would like letters of support.

*Kevin Aston, Religious Education Teacher*

## OPENING MASS

Bishop Peter Connors, Fr Tom Brophy, Fr Matthew Thomas, Fr Pat Flanagan and Fr Ciju Chackanikunnel (Fr Paul) joined with the College community to celebrate the opening of the school year on Tuesday at the St Joseph's College Stadium. Also present were Sr Kath Tierney, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy Melbourne Congregation and Ms Patricia Ryan, Chair of the Mercy Secondary Education Incorporated. The liturgy highlighted the call to each of us to use our gifts for the good of our community and to work towards building a school community, and society, in which the Spirit of Mercy is alive and active. During the liturgy we commissioned Mr Atkinson as the first non-Sister of Mercy Principal, along with blessing our student leaders for 2009. Once again we were blessed with the wonderful talents of many students as they assisted in our prayerful celebration of the Eucharist. A number of parents of Year 7 students attended as we welcomed these students, and many of the parents, to our College community. Morning tea after Mass enabled parents to mix and meet in a spirit of Mercy hospitality.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE - YEARS 11 & 12

We offer a gentle reminder to parents and students that Community Service for 2009 needs to be initiated in the near future in order to avoid unnecessary stress later in the year. This also allows students to plan genuinely fulfilling activities that can contribute to our local community. We remind you that St Vincent de Paul are always looking for assistance, especially now that the Society will be contributing enormously to helping families who have been affected by the recent fires.

*Mr Tony Finn, Director of Religious Education*

### LOCAL EXCURSIONS

#### Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March

Periods 6 & 7 PED081K to Waves (Mr Smith)

#### Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March

Period 2 & 3 RELV21A to Buronga Primary School (Mr Eddie)

#### Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March

Periods 1 - 3 DANC01A to Art Centre (Miss Howley)

Periods 2 & 3 PED071M,R to Waves (Mr McCormack & Mrs Minter)

Periods 4 & 5 ART071A to Art Centre Exhibition (Miss Higgins)

Periods 6 & 7 MWS081D to Vision Australia (Miss Hagen)  
MWS081G to Christie Centre (Mr Towns)  
MWS081D to Salvation Army (Mr Reece, Mrs Knight)

#### Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March

Periods 4 & 5 PED071C,Y to Waves (Mr Smith & Mr Ficarra)

### PROJECT COMPASSION EASTER RAFFLE

The College is running a Monster Easter Egg Raffle to raise money for Project Compassion. All students are asked to donate Easter eggs, baskets and wrapping paper for prizes. All donations will be greatly appreciated and can be left at the Student Office. The raffle will be drawn on **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April.**



### BINGO

#### THURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL

Jackie Bishop	5025 4300
Carolyn Theofelos	5021 5310
John Dyson	5023 7218
Brendan Sheahan	5022 7794
Emergency: Margaret Burton	0409 502 414

### VO AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Over the past couple of weeks students have been learning about traditional Aboriginal life in Australia. The students have covered topics such as Dreamtime, family life, initiations, land use, hunting and gathering. Mr Will Hannah shared his personal story with the class and showed the students aboriginal artefacts, such as weapons and implements. The students were informed about how each artefact was made and used in traditional Aboriginal society.



### PONDER THIS - WHAT TYPE OF LEADER ARE YOU?

I am now four weeks into my role as School Captain and I have already begun questioning exactly what sort of leader I am. I began the year with the foolish idea that I could hold some sort of omnipotent control over my tasks and responsibilities. However, as the workload increased and things got very busy, I soon realised that the role of School Captain was much bigger than me. To achieve all the things I had planned, I was going to need a great deal of support from my peers. I couldn't be an autocratic leader, and so, I needed to adopt a participative approach.

With a participative approach, my peers and I can all bring our own perspectives to attention. Personally, I enjoy being the ideas man, whereas others like to take on a more supportive role. Camille, my counter part, demonstrates an organised and controlled outlook, and she has the ability to plan things down to the most minor details. What type of leader are you, how do you contribute to your families, school and workplace?

I believe it is important to identify what type of leader we are and the strong qualities we promote. It also allows us to improve in areas we are not so strong in and make the most of our strong leadership traits. For me, I am constantly reminding myself to be an active listener. Above all, I think it helps to choose a role model that suits your personality. It could be someone like Matthew Lloyd, the marquee leader or Nick Maxwell, the follow me / lead by example sort of guy.

*Patrick Kelly, School Captain*

## LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The Lions “Youth of the Year” contest is a national competition that aims to recognise the exceptional leaders and public speakers of our youth. This year, St Joseph’s College entered two participants, Peter Sergi (Year 11) and Sophie Twaddle (Year 12). Each contestant was required to submit a CV, endure a process of interviews, speak publicly on two impromptu topics and deliver a five minute prepared speech to an audience of Lions Club members and a panel of judges. Peter and Sophie proved themselves exceptional public speakers and fine ambassadors of the College at the Public Speaking component, held at Mildura Settlers Club on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February. The impromptu speeches proved challenging requiring the contestants to speak for two minutes each on “Is too much attention paid to sport” and “What are your thoughts on the invasion of privacy.” Peter and Sophie then gave their five minute prepared speeches on underage binge drinking and sustainable energy respectively. Though both students showed fine public speaking skills and submitted an impressive CV, the overall winner on the evening was Peter Sergi. Peter will now go to the regional final held in Broken Hill on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations to both Peter and Sophie on their fantastic efforts.



Winner: Peter Sergi, Lion Russell Dawson, Tracy Hopfner and runner up Sophie Twaddle

### INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February our four Houses battled out the rights to hold the Swimming Carnival trophy aloft. We had great weather and the venue of the Iyrmpole pool was ready for action. The night consisted of the four swimming strokes – Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. As for previous years we encouraged all students to “have a go” and participate.

Throughout the night it was great to see students giving swimming a go even though it may not be their ‘thing’, they were simply helping their house accumulate as many points as possible.

Our Age Group champions were as follows:

<b>U/13 Female:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Lucy Sanderson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alexandra Antonysen 3 <sup>rd</sup> Montana Andriske	<b>U/13 Male:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Layne Tankard 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thomas Symes 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jayden Zanoni
<b>U/14 Female:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Demmi Andriske 2 <sup>nd</sup> Zara Opie 3 <sup>rd</sup> Helena Byrnes	<b>U/14 Male:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Marcus Walker 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lachlan Cumming 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hugh Clarkson
<b>U/15 Female:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Maddison McManus 2 <sup>nd</sup> Courtney Avers 3 <sup>rd</sup> Madeline Lyons	<b>U/15 Male:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Ashby Smith 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ben Athorn 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ben Stevenson
<b>U/16 Female:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Monica Carroll 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mahayla Pay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nikki Scott	<b>U/16 Male:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Tom Hewitt 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tyler Lock 3 <sup>rd</sup> Alex Mansell

<b>U/17 Female:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Alivia Opie 2 <sup>nd</sup> Courtney Scherher 3 <sup>rd</sup> Janna Woosnam	<b>U/17 Male:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Hayden Flett 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bradley eagle 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sam Freeman
<b>U/21 Female:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Alison Penington 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kate Tankard 3 <sup>rd</sup> Genavieve Hennessy	<b>U/21 Male:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Justin Carroll 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reece McNally 3 <sup>rd</sup> Zac Kelly

#### The final results were:

1 <sup>st</sup> Padua	2275
2 <sup>nd</sup> Xavier	2050
3 <sup>rd</sup> McAuley	1623
4 <sup>th</sup> Chisholm	1449

Those students who felt uncomfortable swimming on the day were given the chance to participate in our novelty events – where getting wet and having some competitive fun were the basic criteria.

#### The results for the novelty events were:

1 <sup>st</sup> McAuley
2 <sup>nd</sup> Chisholm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Xavier
4 <sup>th</sup> Padua

We would like to thank all of the students that participated and provided spirit and atmosphere for the Carnival. The colours and banners looked fantastic as students and teachers put a lot of work into these. Thank you to all the parents that came and gave their support on the night. It was an excellent event and we look to make it bigger and brigher next year.

*Josh McCormack, Sports Coordinator  
& Karyn Cross, Sports Assistant*

## HUMANITIES NEWS

### START SMART WORKSHOPS

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March our VO Accounting and VO Economics/Business Management classes will attend a free seminar called 'Start Smart' which is supported by the Commonwealth Bank. The aim of the program is to educate students in the basics of financial literacy; taxation, savings, credit, debt, spending, etc. It aims to provide students with a basis for avoiding some of life's financial pitfalls. For more information you can access their web site [http://www.startsmart.com.au/schools\\_program/program\\_schools.html](http://www.startsmart.com.au/schools_program/program_schools.html)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Stephanie Leake and Tori Mammone for being selected in the Under 17 Northern Zone Netball Academy. The girls now have to travel several times a month around the region for training with the goal of being selected in the State Squad in October. We wish them both all the best.

## MILDURA RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Mildura R.D.A aims to enrich the quality of life of people with special needs through committed volunteers and innovative programs with horses. Programs have therapeutic, developmental and social value. **Mildura R.D.A desperately need new volunteers. No experience is required.** For further information, please contact Judy Farrelly 0408 246 720 or Jane Cruise 5025 1171.

## DEBUTANTE BALL 2009

The first meeting for all intended Debutantes, Partners and a representative parent of each is to attend a meeting on **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held at the Sacred Heart Hall.

## MILDURA JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB INC.

Football training for all U10, U12, U14 & U16 players will commence on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March at 4.30pm on Aero Ovals 3. All players from last year and new players for 2009 are most welcome to attend this training.

Registration Night for all Junior Football and Netball players for 2009 and the 2009 Auskick players will take place on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at Mildura Function Centre, Number 1 Oval, 11<sup>th</sup> Street Mildura. Registrations will be taken between 5.30pm - 6.30pm. All past and new players are welcome.

## RED CLIFFS JUNIOR FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

Registration Day will be held on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Club Rooms, Quandong Park.

**Football:** U10's & U12's 1.00pm - 3.00pm, U14's & U16's 3.00pm - 5.00pm

**Netball:** All Junior Grades 3.00pm - 5.00pm  
BBQ sausages supplied

## CANTEEN HELPERS REQUIRED

Thank you to those dedicated families who have given their time to support the running of the Canteen in the past and those who have already put down their name to help this year. Your efforts are truly appreciated by both staff and students. The roster for term two is currently being compiled and we are in great need of more volunteers. Any time that you can give (1/2 hour to a maximum of three hours) would be wonderful.

We realize that all parents are busy people, but to maintain the smooth running of the canteen we require as many helpers as possible to volunteer their time. If we could achieve this, each person would need to be rostered on only once. If you are able to help, please complete the following form and return it to the College as soon as possible. Alternately, please email [stiver@sjcmnda.vic.edu.au](mailto:stiver@sjcmnda.vic.edu.au).

*Mrs Sandra Tiver, Canteen Manager*

✂

Yes, I am able to help in the Canteen.

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Day: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Preferred Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a time when you are not available? \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS TIVER VIA YOUR HOMEROOM ROLL

# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Would you like to learn a musical instrument?

Lessons are conducted at the College during a normal school day. Lesson times are rotated each week so that students do not miss the same class.

The College requests that music fees be paid direct to the instrumental teacher at the commencement of each term. An invoice and timetable will be sent home via mail.

**Alison McGann - \$25.00 per half hour lesson - clarinet and piano  
(only available after school hours)**

**Phil McDonald - \$20.00 per half hour lesson - drums and guitar**

**Kimberley Krul - \$20.00 per half hour lesson - Violin**

**Louise Judd - \$22.00 per half hour lesson - Piano**

**Ann Cook - \$25.00 per half hour lesson - Voice**



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2009

### BOOKING FORM

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to learn the following instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please indicate
- I am a beginner
- I have been learning for \_\_\_\_\_ years
- I have my own instrument

I would prefer to have lessons with:

- Alison McGann - Piano/Clarinet (out of school hours)
- Phil McDonald - Guitar/Dums
- Kimberley Krul - Violin
- Louise Judd - Piano
- Ann Cook - Voice

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS JILL PETERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE