

NEWSLETTER No. 6 – Thursday, 12th March 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

The College Advisory Council held its first meeting for the year last week. The meeting commenced with a presentation by Ms Patricia Ryan on the topic of the Mercy Secondary Education Inc (MSEI) Strategic Plan. MSEI supports St Joseph's College, and the other six Mercy owned secondary Colleges in Victoria. Other items on the agenda for the meeting included a discussion on the School Improvement Framework and an introduction to the most recent funding initiatives of the Federal Government: "Building the Education Revolution". The Council also discussed information about the College budget, Religious Education programs and Pastoral Care. The members of the Advisory Council include:

Mr Chris Ellis – Chairperson

Mrs Jane Kelly – Deputy Chairperson

Mr Darren Atkinson

Sr Madeline Fox rsm – MSEI Representative

Mr Darryl Pearl

Mr Brendan Sheahan

Mr Michael Shugg

Mr Patrick Timmons

Mrs Suzanne Watt

Mr Kevin Towns

In attendance: Mr Tony Finn, Mrs Anne Hoyle, Mrs Tracy Aston

Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal

PRAYER

God of peace and compassion we pray:

May the love of Christ help us to see each moment as an opportunity to open our eyes, ears and hearts to participate in building a fair, just and peaceful world.

We pray to the Lord.

May we use the great gifts God has given us to serve others; living lives of compassion, peace and justice.

We pray to the Lord.

May we understand that all human activity has an impact on us, other people and our environment.

May we respect the gifts of creation, give thanks for them, and use them justly – ensuring future generations have a safe and sustainable environment to grow in.

We pray to the Lord.

A FOND FAREWELL

It is with great sadness that we farewell Mrs Annette Wilkinson this week. Annette was most generous to the College by coming out of retirement in January to assist us with our teacher shortage. Annette has important family commitments that have made it impossible for her to continue her work with us. We wish Annette and her family our best wishes and offer them our prayers. Thankfully, we have generous teachers in Mrs Marietta Haynes and Mrs Maree Jones who have agreed to increase their teaching loads to cover the vacancy.

RESPECT

I believe that respect is one of the most crucial concepts that we need to engender in schools, especially those who align themselves with Christian values. A healthy, functioning society demands that respect as a cornerstone. It is something that needs to underpin all of our actions here at St Joseph's College. I do not have the room here to define respect fully, but to me, respect can be as simple as acknowledging that another person has values and rights, or that an object has value to another person. Respect begins when you can see or feel what another person is experiencing and it



often fails when we fail to see the humanity in others.

In the last few weeks, there have been some situations that have arisen at the College, where there has been a lack of regard to the feelings of others. It is important that we encourage everyone within our community to develop respect for each other when it has not been evident. In order to work through these issues, it is often important that the person who has been disrespectful must face the impact of how their actions affect others, whether that is through a restorative meeting or through an opportunity to consider the impact of their actions.

In particular, however, I remind all students of the need for respect in the everyday situations at school by:

- respecting themselves, particularly with the way they are wearing their uniform,
- respecting others, particularly in the way they interact with other students and staff,
- respecting their College environment, particularly with regard to litter and the use of class buildings.

In recent weeks, there have been a number of reports in the media about cyber-bullying, where mobile phones or the internet have been used to disparage others, with some instances of extreme disrespect. Students need to be aware of the widespread impact these negative actions can have, especially with the above mentioned forms of media. This also explains why the penalties for inappropriate use are so high. We at St Joseph's College are not immune to this type of activity, and I encourage all parents to talk to their children about the respectful use of these technologies. Last week, The Herald Sun offered some handy advice which is included below.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE*

1. Parents should note what websites kids visit and who they chat with
2. Talk about cyber-bullying
3. Use safety software
4. Research school cyber-bullying policies
5. Report online abuse to the website, school or police
6. Block communication with cyber-bullies

*Microsoft; www.microsoft.com/protect as cited in the Herald Sun 4/3/09

Kevin Towns, Deputy Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROJECT COMPASSION

'An Environment to Grow In' is the theme for Project Compassion 2009. This encompasses not only the physical conditions, but all the circumstances that surround us as we strive to live life to the full. As we begin the season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on our relationship with God, with others and indeed with all of creation. We reflect on how

we can participate in building a fair, just and peaceful world through serving others. We reflect on creation, not as an instrument to be used or exploited, but as a gift that God has placed into our hands to be used responsibly and lovingly with care. We reflect on how we can grow closer to God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving; by aspiring not to have more, but to *be more* in the world today. All students and families are invited to become involved in Project Compassion during Lent this year.

YEAR 12 RETREAT

The Year 12 Retreat will take place in the final week of Term 2, **Monday, 22nd - Friday, 26th June**. Deposits are now due so that final numbers and definite arrangements for travel and accommodation can be established. If there are issues for families regarding payment of the deposit, please contact Mrs Anne Hoyle, the Business Manager. The College aims to help all students be a part of the Retreat, which is the most important part of the Religious Education program. If you have any questions about the Retreat please contact Mr Tony Finn on 5018 8044.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - YEARS 11 AND 12

A 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.

Tony Finn, Director of Religious Education

DATE CHANGE FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP

The Advanced Outdoor Education Camp to Walpolla Island has again changed dates. The camp will now take place on **Thursday, 19th to Friday, 20th March**.

EARLY NOTIFICATION OF PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on **Tuesday, 28th April**. Please mark this date in your diary. Prior to the interviews, parents will receive mid Semester reports which will be mailed home at the end of Term 1. You can make appointments to see teachers by calling a dedicated phone number in the two weeks prior to Parent Teacher interviews. More detailed information will be included in the newsletters between now and the end of the term.

Greg Kluske, Director of Curriculum

LOCAL EXCURSIONS

Thursday, 12th March

- Periods 2 & 3** PED081L to Waves (Mrs Sharman)
- Periods 4 & 5** PED081D,C,M to Waves (Mr McCormack, Mr Ficarra, Miss Howley)
- Periods 6 & 7** PED071E to Waves (Mr Ficarra)
PED080A to Woolworths (Mr Doyle)

Friday, 13th March

- Periods 6 & 7** PED081K to Waves (Mr Smith)

Monday, 16th March

- POD111A to Wagga Wagga (Mr Reece, Mrs Minter)
NW Field & Gun Club (Mr Aston)
- Periods 1 - 6** Lindemans Winery (Mr McGlashan, Mrs Van Aardt, Mr Carroll)
- Periods 2 & 3** RELV21A to Buronga Primary School (Mr Eddie)
PED0B0A to Rays Outdoor Centre (Mr Doyle)

Tuesday, 17th March

- Periods 2 - 4** Meals on Wheels (Mr O'Connor)
- Periods 2 & 3** PED071M,R to Waves (Mr McCormack, Mrs Minter)
- Periods 6 & 7** MWS081C,D to Salvation Army (Mr McCormack, Miss Hagen)
MWS081A to Christie Centre (Mr Reece)
MWS081D to Vision Australia (Mr Towns)

Wednesday, 18th March

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

Thursday, 19th March

- Periods 2 & 3** PED081L to Waves (Mrs Sharman)
- Periods 4 & 5** PED081D,C,M to Waves (Mr McCormack, Mr Ficarra, Mrs Howley)
- Periods 6 & 7** PED071E to Waves (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, 1st April**.



BINGO

THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL

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

THURSDAY, 4TH MAY

Narelle Gallagher	5024 7136
Cveta McKeever	5023 3898
Wayne Nash	5023 5839
Larry Eagle	5024 2667
<i>Emergency:</i> Brenda Forrest	5021 1057

DEBUTANTE BALL 2009

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



MOTIVATIONAL MEDIA

'REBOUND' Coping with Life's uncertainties through resilience

On **Monday, 16th March** students will be viewing the Motivational Media program called 'Rebound', a presentation that contains powerful images and messages about the value of planning for our lives and making good choices in relationships with others.

Of all the people we most admire in life, very few have experienced a 'dream run' to success. In fact, many people can talk about setbacks and even tragedies that could have potentially put an end to their dreams. But the difference between successful people and those who seem to end up with no direction in life, is not necessarily a matter of what hand fate has dealt them, but rather how they have reacted to misfortune and hardships. As the Chinese philosopher Confucius said *'Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall'*.

The following is the organisation for the day (**Monday, 16th March**):

Year 11 and 12	Period 3	10:30 - 11:23am
Year 9 and 10	Period 5	12:30 - 1:15pm
Year 7 and 8	Period 6 / 7	2:35 - 3:25pm

The Presentation will take place in the Sacred Heart Hall. Year 8 students will be walked back to the College and dismissed from the Twelfth Street site after watching the presentation.

Peter Carroll, Director of Students

INFORMATION FOR SENIOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

YEAR 12 VCE SUBJECTS AND JUNE EXAMS

The first exam cycle for Year 12 VCE subjects will be held early in June. Whilst this may seem a long way off yet, it is timely to consider a few things in relation to these exams.

A detailed timetable of the exams is available from <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/exams/timetable.html#H2N10033>.

All written VCE Year 12 Exams will be conducted at the St Joseph's College Stadium.

More detailed information in relation to the conduct of exams, rules, regulations and approved materials that can be taken into exams, along with individualised student exam timetables for all written exams for the whole year, will be sent home late April or early May.

It is recommended that families read it thoroughly and carefully when it arrives.

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST (GAT) EXAM

All students studying any Year 12 VCE subject are required to sit the compulsory General Achievement Test (GAT) Exam.

This is a test of knowledge and skill in writing, mathematics, science and technology, humanities and social sciences and the arts. This year the GAT Exam will be held on **Thursday, 11th June**, and is a 3 hour long examination. Whilst GAT results do not count directly towards VCE results, they do play an important role in the VCAA checking that School-assessed Tasks, School-assessed Coursework and examinations have been accurately assessed. The importance of doing well in the GAT should not be underestimated as it can have a very big impact on the final result our students can achieve.

Further information about the GAT (including past GAT papers and answers) is available at

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/exams/gat/index.html>

Should you have any further queries about any of this information please contact me by phone or email gpaolucci@sjcnda.vic.edu.au.

George Paolucci, Senior School Coordinator

SSSSA SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On the night of Thursday, 26th February, a group of enthusiastic swimmers took to the water at Mildura Waves to compete against other local schools in the area. The carnival highlights the swimming talent in the area as students need to qualify for events through their own school swimming carnivals. We had approximately 60 students involved with individual and relay events. Throughout the night we had some excellent results:

Age Group Champions:

13 Yr Boys	Layne Tankard
14 Yr Girls	Demmi Andriske
14 Yr Boys	Marcus Walker
17 Yr Girls	Alivia Opie
17 Yr Boys	Hayden Flett

Overall Places:

1st Place Senior Shield

2nd Place Junior Shield

All students who participated represented the College with outstanding pride and dignity. We would like to thank the staff and parents who volunteered their time to help on the night. Thank you to everyone who participated, but in particular those students who gave their time to swim one or two events, or just the relay. Without these swimmers we could not field relay squads and it shows great sacrifice and commitment from the students.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Katelin Anesbury and Joel Dorman on winning their division at the Ouyen Tennis Tournaments on the long weekend. Katelin also made it to the grand final in the doubles with Ally Robinson, but unfortunately were beaten in this match. Congratulations to all who participated on the day.

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL - ENDGRAVED PAVER DRIVE

Sacred Heart Primary School Mildura is running an "engraved paver" drive to coincide with the next stage of their building program. If you have been part of the school community at any time, we invite you to purchase a personalised paver, so that you and your family can have your name as part of a permanent reminder of your association with the school. Order forms can be obtained from the school on Olive Grove or by contacting Allie Collyer on 5021 5909 (after hours). The closing date for orders is **Friday, 20th March**. If you have any queries, please contact either Greg Lane or Allie Collyer on 0409 563 281.

NICHOLS POINT SOCCER CLUB

The Nichols Point Soccer Club currently needs players for their seniors & ladies age groups. If you have never played soccer before, it does not matter, just come along and give it a try. New and experienced players are very welcome. For more information contact Bruce on 0409 997 840 or Amanda on 0408 683 457.

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/Drums
- 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