

## NEWSLETTER No. 3 – Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

We have all been shocked by the devastation of the bushfires over the past two weeks and both students and staff have been looking for an appropriate way to respond. An “out of uniform day” yesterday was able to raise money that will be forwarded to the Bushfire Appeal. There have also been opportunities to gather in prayer in Homerooms and other groupings. I would like to make special mention of CFA volunteer, Mr Kevin Aston, who was called up as one of the reinforcement teams during last week and CFA Chaplain, Fr Matthew, who spent the week on standby.

We farewell Mrs Bianca Alvey who commences maternity leave and we welcome Miss Emily Coffey as replacement School Secretary. Emily moves to Mildura from Swan Hill and brings a wealth of experience in a range of secretarial settings. Correspondence to the Student Office regarding absenteeism or other student related matters will be received by Emily on email: [studentoffice@sjcnda.vic.edu.au](mailto:studentoffice@sjcnda.vic.edu.au) or by phone: 5018 8051.

Congratulations to all who participated in our annual Swimming Carnival at Irymple Pool yesterday. It is a great opportunity to gather as a community and show our House spirit. Thank you to Sports Co-ordinator, Mr Josh McCormack, Assistant, Mrs Karyn Cross, and all staff and helpers without whom such an event could not take place.

Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal

### PRAYER

Loving God

You love all that you have made,  
And you forgive the faults of all who are truly sorry.  
Create in us hearts that are new and able to fully love,  
So that we can experience your loving forgiveness and mercy.  
We ask this knowing that you are a God of love and compassion. Amen.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### LENT

Next Wednesday is the beginning of the Church season of Lent, a time of preparation leading up to Easter. Lent has traditionally been a time of self-sacrifice, prayer and service as a means of showing an appreciation for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time for self-examination to find those areas of our lives that need to be improved in terms of our relationships with God, our fellow humans and creation. On Ash Wednesday, students will be invited to receive a mark of ashes on their foreheads as a sign of their willingness to enter into this time of Lent. The liturgies will take place in House groups and will involve readings and prayers to focus our thoughts on the need to accept our limitations and work towards improving our relationships.

Local parishes offer Ash Wednesday services and we invite all families to join with the local communities at this time. The following 40 days of

Lent remind us of the 40 days that Jesus spent in preparation for his ministry. It is a pre-season training session to prepare us for the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

#### OPENING MASS

Our Opening Mass of 2009 will be held at 9.10am on **Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** at the St Joseph's College Stadium. Bishop Peter Connors will be present to lead us in this special liturgy which welcomes our new students, blesses our Year 12 students and formally blesses Mr Darren Atkinson as our new Principal. Sr Kath Tierney RSM and Ms Patricia Ryan of Mercy Secondary Education Incorporated will also be present to offer their support to Mr Atkinson and the school at this special time. All parents are most welcome to attend, especially parents of Year 7 and other new students to our College. There will be a light morning tea after the Mass for parents to gather and meet other parents and staff. All parents attending are requested to



contact Mrs Tracy Aston at the College 5018 8000 so that catering can be arranged.

All students are to be brought to the Stadium instead of the College on that day and late bus travellers will have a College bus to deliver them to the Stadium.

#### LOCAL EXCURSIONS

##### Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February

Periods 4 & 5 POD111A to Kings Billabong (Mr Reece)

Periods 6 & 7 PED081K to Waves (Mr Ian Smith)

##### Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February

Period 2 & 3 PED071M,R to Waves (Mr McCormack & Ms Minter)

Periods 2 & 3 PED0E0A to Apex Park (Mr Doyle)

##### Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February

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

Period 6 & 7 POD111A to Wentworth Sand Hills (Mr Reece)

##### Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February

Periods 2 & 3 PED081L to Waves (Mrs Sharman)

Periods 4 & 5 PED081D,C,M to Waves (Mrs Howley, Mr Ficarra, Mr McCormack)

Period 6 & 7 PED071E to Waves (Mr Ficarra)

#### WOMEN'S REFLECTION DAY

Sacred Heart Parish Mildura invites you to attend "You are God's great, wondrous Work of Art", a reflection day for women facilitated by Lys Crowe. We are each treasure chests of talents, insights and remarkable gifts. You are invited to spend some reflective, prayerful and peaceful time as you discover the wondrous work of art that you are. The session will take place on **Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March** from 9.45am to 3pm in the Sacred Heart Church. Please bring some lunch to share and a small photo of yourself. Tea, coffee and morning tea will be provided. RSVP by **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February** by ringing the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

#### VICTORIAN BUSH FIRE APPEAL

Donations to the Red Cross: [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

Donations can be made to The Salvation Army Disaster Relief fund by calling 13 Salvos (137 258) or at [www.salvos.org.au](http://www.salvos.org.au). Monetary donations are preferred.

All NAB branches will collect donations from today, or donations can be made using online banking. Victoria Bushfire Relief Fund; BSB: 082-001; Account: 860 046 797.

Donate at any Commonwealth, Westpac, ANZ, National, Salvation Army or Red Cross. Salvos and Red Cross are credit card only, all bank branches accept cash.

To donate blood call the Red Cross on 131 495.

[www.donateblood.com.au](http://www.donateblood.com.au)

Offer help with accommodation, bedding, tents [http://blogs.abc.net.au/victoria/2009/02/offer-help---or.html?program=melbourne\\_bushfires](http://blogs.abc.net.au/victoria/2009/02/offer-help---or.html?program=melbourne_bushfires)

And for the animals: Wildlife Victoria - [www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](http://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au) or Animal Aid - [www.animalaid.com.au](http://www.animalaid.com.au)

St Vincent de Paul - [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

#### 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.

#### BINGO

##### THURSDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Dianne Glacken	5024 8535
Monica Nash	5023 5839
Michael Shugg	5022 7278
Shane Carmichael	5024 8982
Erin Dyason	5023 7218

#### ADVISORY COUNCIL VACANCY

At present we have a vacancy in our College Advisory Council with the resignation of Robyn Napoli. Any parent who would like to be considered for membership is asked to email [principal@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sjcmda.vic.edu.au) or contact Mrs Tracy Aston - 5018 8034 by **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. Meetings are held on Monday commencing at 7.30pm on the following dates this year: **2<sup>nd</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> November, and 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

The purposes of the Council include:

- To act as a consultative council for the school and the Principal in the provision of Catholic education by the school.
- To assist the Principal and staff, when requested by the Principal, in policy making.
- To assist in the preparation of the school budget and to recommend its adoption.
- To take part in strategic planning for the future operation of the school.
- To assist generally in developing relationships between the school and the parents and the school and community.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL CORNER

### YEAR 7 NEWS COMMUNITY DAY

134 Year 7 students and their Core Group Mentors came together last Friday for a Community Day at the Stadium. All students and staff had a tremendous time and were exhausted by the end of the day. This was the first of many year level activities and events to take place over the next six years for the Graduating Class of 2014! On the day, new friendships were formed and old ones were made stronger.

A big thankyou goes out to Mrs Tiver in the canteen, who, with her helpers, catered for us all on the day; to the aides, Mrs Johannssen and Mrs McKeever, who came to see what was going on and had so much fun they stayed and helped out all day; and to the Core Group Mentors who ran the games and sessions (7M - Ms Quinlan; 7E - Ms Lake; 7R - Mrs Minter; 7C - Mrs Van Aardt & 7Y - Mr Smith).

The next Year 7 Community day will be held in Week 1, Term 2 - **Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April.**



### PEER SUPPORT

The Peer Support Program commenced on Wednesday, with Year 7 students meeting their Year 11 Leaders. The program will run for five weeks and is an important part of helping students settle into Secondary College. Peer Support provides the Year 7 students with much needed support additional to their teachers, House Leaders and myself.

### YEAR 8 NEWS COMMUNITY AFTERNOON

Year 8 has a half day activity afternoon planned for **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**, so please mark this date in your calendar. The afternoon will see students transported to the Stadium to participate in activities. Students will also be provided with lunch on this day. Please note students will be dismissed from the Stadium at 3.28pm.

### YEAR 9 NEWS

Welcome back to all Year 9 Students and good luck with your VO subjects. Year 9 also comes with the added responsibility of Semester Exams, so students need to study hard and make the most of all the help that is offered to you. Year 9 will also have a half day activity afternoon which will take place Week 5 Term 2 - **Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May.**

*Mr Nigel Reece, Junior School Coordinator*

## FIRST AID AT SCHOOL

### MEDICATION

If a student requires to take medication whilst at school, the medication is to be left with the First Aid Officer. All medications are kept locked away in the sick bay.

Medications must be supplied in original packaging with the students name and dosage instructions supplied. A "Medication Consent Form" is to be completed, consenting staff to supervise/administer the medication to the student, and to clearly outline directions in giving the medication.

Any student medication needs to be collected from the school at the end of the year, and if medication is required again the following school year, it will need to be re-supplied and another "Medication Consent Form" completed and signed.

### AMBULANCE COVER

St Joseph's College has an insurance policy to cover costs incurred using an ambulance to transfer a student/staff member to hospital following an accident or a school based activity.

The policy does not cover the cost of transfer of a student/staff member with a pre-existing medical condition, should that person's medication condition be the reason for the ambulance transfer. The cost then, is the responsibility of the family or individual billed. Examples of pre-existing medical conditions may include

asthma, bee sting allergy, epilepsy, diabetes, etc. All ambulance fees are billed directly to families, who may then claim the cost against the schools policy in the event of an accident.

As a duty of care, an ambulance will be called in the event of an emergency.

Could all families please review their ambulance cover.

### **STUDENT ILLNESS**

If a student is absent from school, the student office is to be notified by the parent/guardian on telephone 5018 8051 or email [studentoffice@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:studentoffice@sjcmda.vic.edu.au) before 11.00am. Should a student become unwell or injured whilst at school, the parent/guardian will be notified to collect the student. Please note that staff can only phone persons listed as contacts on the student enrolment form in such instances. Please review the contacts listed and ensure that details are correct and updated.

### **EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent/guardian of a primary and secondary school student up to the age of 16; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card. The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13<sup>th</sup> July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **20<sup>th</sup> February** for the first instalment and **7<sup>th</sup> August** for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of \$443.00 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. The amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

### **PAYMENT AMOUNTS**

<b>INSTALMENT</b>	<b>SECONDARY SCHOOL</b>
<b>One</b>	<b>\$155.05</b>
	<b>\$155.05</b>
<b>Two</b>	<b>\$66.45</b>
	<b>\$66.45</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$443.00</b>

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school, will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents, who transfer children to another school after 27<sup>th</sup> February and prior to or on 7<sup>th</sup> August, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment. **EMA application forms for 2009 are available from the College Office.**

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

#### **ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY SECOND HAND BOOK SALES WEBSITE**

Second Hand Books are still available from the St Joseph's College Bay Website. St Joseph's College Bay can be used to sell or purchase second hand resources from the booklist. The site can be accessed from SIMON. A link is located on the left hand under St Joseph's College / St Joseph's College Bay (Book Exchange). Instructions on how to use the site is included on the home page. To see a full list of resources select "View All Pages".

#### **THE 2009 VICTORIAN PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE**

A list of books the library has that are on the Reading Challenge can be found in the Fiction Section in the library. Books can also be quickly identified as they have a green dot on their spines. For more information please contact Mrs Jane McEvoy in the library

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE VICTORIAN PREMIER**

I am pleased to declare the 2009 Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge open. I invite students from Prep to Year 10 to take part in what promises to be a great event. Since 2005, the Challenge has helped thousands of students discover the rewards of reading. This year I hope the Challenge will motivate students who have attempted it before and inspire new students to discover the magic of books. The Challenge will again run over three terms. During this time students who take part will try to read a target number of books. More information and advice about the Challenge can be found on the pages of this website. <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/>

## ASSESSMENT - GRADE DESCRIPTORS

At our Year 7 information evening held last week I was asked what our grading was for assessment at St Joseph's College. Obviously it is important that as a community we understand what each grade represents when students receive marked work from their teacher. Hence below please find our grade descriptors for assessment. Please note there is a slight variation between 7 - 10 and VCE grade descriptors. VCE grade descriptors are provided by the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority); whilst as a school we have agreed to the grade descriptors for Years 7 - 10 at St Joseph's College.

*Mr Greg Kluske, Director of Curriculum*

### YEAR 7 - 10 GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Percentage	Grade	Comment
90+	A+	Outstanding
80-89	A	Excellent
70-79	B+	Very Good
60-69	B	Good
55-59	C+	Fair
50-54	C	Adequate
45-49	D+	Limited
40-44	D	Very Limited
30-40	E+	Poor
20-30	E	Very Poor
<20	UG	Ungradable

### VCE GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Percentage	Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
70-79	B+
60-69	B
50-59	C+
40-49	C
30-39	D+
20-29	D
10-19	E+
0-9	E

## HUMANITIES NEWS

### YOUTHINK FORUM

Young Australians can register online at [www.youth.gov.au/ayf](http://www.youth.gov.au/ayf) but places are limited. The website has detailed information on the event and the topics to be discussed. Even if you think you could not attend the forum personally, the minister is still interested in your ideas. If you are interested apply online or contact Mrs Chamberlain.

### START SMART WORKSHOPS

On Thursday, 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)

**AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS WEEK PROGRAM 2009 - SUPPORT WANTED**

Students from St Joseph's College will be given the opportunity to gain valuable leadership, teamwork, entrepreneurial and business skills through the Australian Business Week Schools Program in October 2009.

Some 60 Year 11 students studying commerce related subjects will participate in the Program.

ABW is an intense learning experience conducted over one week. It gives the participants the opportunity to learn about business from a business perspective, by working with business men and women. During the week the students will be placed in teams of ten to form a company. Students will assume the roles of the company's staff.

In an experiential, hands-on decision making process, they make all the decisions affecting the company's performance in the marketplace. The students will then participate in a number of activities and seminars regarding operating a large scale business, such as, being required to prepare a marketing campaign for a prototype, conduct a shareholder's general meeting and prepare a company written report.

The success of previous years has resulted in the program being offered again in 2009 at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and will involve a number of local business personalities, Government Authorities and Departments' personnel and community groups.

In order for the program to continue its success, assistance is sought to become a business mentor, guest speaker, judge and presenter, or provide sponsorship.

Interested persons in providing assistance are invited to complete the attached Business Application Form and return it to the College by the start of March. For further information please contact Miss Paula Cox at the College or email [pcox@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:pcox@sjcmda.vic.edu.au).

**Australian Business Week - Business Assistance Application Form 2009**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Workplace Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistance Offering: Business Mentor / Judge / Presenter / Sponsorship (Monetary or Gift)

**BINGO ROSTER**

Thank you to those dedicated families who have given their time to support the running of Bingo in previous years. The three Catholic schools jointly undertake this venture to enable extra funds to be made available for the benefit of all of our students. We are currently compiling the parent roster for April 2009 to March 2010.

Bingo is held in the Sacred Heart Hall (behind the Church) each Thursday evening. Parents are responsible for the running of the kiosk and the selling of bingo tickets. Bingo is now also a smoke-free zone. We realize that all parents are busy people, however to maintain the smooth running of Bingo we require each family to volunteer their time. If we could achieve this, each person would only need to be rostered once a year. Please complete the form below and return it to the College as soon as possible so that a roster can be drawn up. Alternatively please email [tatkinson@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:tatkinson@sjcmda.vic.edu.au).

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**ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE - BINGO ROSTER 2009/2010**

Please include the following names on the Bingo Roster for 2009/2010 (April to March):

Ladies Roster: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (A/H) \_\_\_\_\_

Men's Roster: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (A/H) \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any particular time of the year that you will not be available: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have students at the College in 2010? \_\_\_\_\_

**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@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:stiver@sjcmda.vic.edu.au).

*Mrs Sandra Tiver, Canteen Manager*

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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*