

NEWSLETTER No. 4 – Thursday, 26th February 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

This week saw the commencement of our preparation for Easter with Ash Wednesday liturgies. It also marks the start of our College commitment to Project Compassion as we support Catholic International Aid Agency, Caritas. The work of Caritas can be seen on their website: <http://www.caritas.org.au>. We ask that students make a special commitment during this Lenten period and give without expecting anything in return. On the topic of the generosity of our community, I am very pleased to be able to advise that our collection for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal raised \$1480.00 for the Red Cross.

Next Tuesday, March 3rd we will celebrate our Opening Mass and are most fortunate to have Bishop Peter Connors to lead our gathering. Our Parish Priest, Fr Tom Brophy and Frs Matt, Frank and Pat will assist. We are fortunate to have special guests Sr Kath Tierney RSM, Congregation Leader, and Patricia Ryan, MSEI Chairperson, also present. This mass welcomes Year 7 students to the college and we also bless our College Leaders, including the commissioning of a new Principal. The venue will be St Joseph's College Stadium and students are to arrive at the stadium for homeroom at 8.50am. On conclusion of the mass students will be walked back to the College. Parents are very welcome to join us at approximately 9.15am for our mass and commissioning ceremony.

Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Thank you to Mr Andrew Leske, Principal, Trinity Lutheran College, for kindly offering their kitchen facilities to help us accommodate our rapidly growing Food Technology needs. Each week, a Year 7 class is being taken by bus to Trinity Lutheran College by teacher Mrs Kim Kelly to use the kitchen facilities, as our kitchen is fully committed for the whole week. Congratulations to our Technology Domain for generating such high student interest in the subject.

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.

THE EDUCATION TAX REFUND GET 50% BACK

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their

eligible education expenses, up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students. This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- The Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- The Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- A scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- An Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

WHAT CAN YOU CLAIM?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs – for example, internet and paper



- Educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
 - Stationery and art supplies
 - School textbooks and associated learning materials
 - Trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.
- Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

WHEN CAN YOU CLAIM?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

- **Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:

- Visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- Phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.

OPENING COLLEGE MASS

The Opening College Eucharist will be held at the St Josephs College Stadium, Eleventh Street on **Tuesday, 3rd March**. At this Eucharist all Year 7 and other new students will be welcomed to the College, as well as an induction ceremony for Mr Darren Atkinson, our new College Principal. We invite all new parents to participate in this Mass also. Students are to arrive at the stadium by 8.50am where rolls will be marked by homeroom teachers. Students travelling by bus past the Stadium will be dropped off. Other students on buses dropped off at the College will need to walk to the Stadium. Late bus travellers or students unable to walk to the Stadium will be able to catch a College bus to the Stadium from the Eleventh Street bus stop. Senior students are not permitted to drive their car to the Stadium. If parents are dropping students off, we ask that you use the Eleventh Street entrance into the back car park and then exit using the same route as you arrived. This will assist with congestion on the corner of Riverside and Eleventh Street. This would also keep all vehicular traffic away from the main doors of the Stadium. **No student is to be dropped off at the front entrance.**

At the stadium each house group will meet at a different entrance:

Padua	Back Car park roller doors
McAuley	Restaurant entrance
Xavier	Front Car park
Chisholm	Front entrance

After roll marking, students will file into the Stadium. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, students will walk back to the College with their homeroom teacher in house groups. Students who arrive at the Stadium with their school bags should ensure that they can be carried back to school. Alternatively students may wish to come to school first and drop off their bags before arriving at the stadium. If the weather is extreme, students will be bussed back to the College. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

Please Note - THE COLLEGE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL 12PM ON THIS DAY.

Mr Kevin Towns, Deputy Principal

SOCIAL AWARENESS

As a Catholic College, one of our central aims is to engender a sense of social awareness amongst all members of our community. As a Mercy School, we are mindful that service to others is one of the key components of the ethos passed onto us by Catherine McAuley. I am pleased to note that the generosity of the human spirit is alive and well at St Joseph's College.

I have been fortunate to be a part of the Year 8 Mercy Works program this year. In recent weeks we have been investigating the concept of voluntary service to others in the community. Many of the staff have been invited to speak to the students about their involvement in voluntary service activities, as well as guests from the wider community. The students and I have been inspired by the sheer number of people who give up their time to others in the Sunraysia region and beyond. Last week, at short notice, we raised \$1480.00 for the bushfire relief with an out of uniform day prior to the swimming carnival. Within the college, we have also had numerous students engaged in fundraising for "Relay for Life" and starting this week, the College will focus its attention on "Project Compassion", our annual college fundraising effort for Term 1.

It is gratifying to see so much concern for the wellbeing of others, and I am happy to have become a member of such a giving community.

Mr Kevin Towns, Deputy Principal

LOCAL EXCURSIONS

Friday, 27th February

Periods 6 & 7 PED081K to Waves (Mr Smith)

Monday, 2nd March

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

Tuesday, 3rd March

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

Wednesday, 4th March

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

Thursday, 5th March

Periods 2 & 3 PED081L to Waves (Mrs Sharman)

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

Period 6 & 7 PED071E to Waves (Mr Ficarra)

DATE CHANGE - ADVANCED OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP

The Advanced Outdoor Education Camp has a confirmed date change from Thursday, 26th and Friday, 27th February to **Thursday, 5th and Friday, 6th March**. The reason for this change is due to the current forecast being 39 degrees for Thursday and 41degrees for Friday with 25kmh winds.

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**.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING AREAS - MCAULEY REFURBISHMENT

Students and staff at St Joseph's College Mildura, are really enjoying the opportunity to experiment with some different learning situations as a result of the refurbishment of the McAuley wing. This refurbishment was made possible due to a grant obtained from the Victorian Government Needs Based Capital Assistance Funding and was completed on time (despite a tight timeline), ready for the 2009 school year. The refurbishment has created two new flexible learning areas in the lower level of the McAuley wing with several break out and passive learning areas, along with new byte style desks which encourage creative learning environments. Both rooms are equipped with smart boards, data projectors and will have six computers available for student use.



Teachers have been quick to understand the need to plan differently for lessons in these rooms and have been impressed with the flexibility they provide. Students have found the rooms to be conducive to a more varied lesson structure and in the provision of a more collaborative approach amongst the students.



As a school we look forward to utilising these rooms in a manner that leads to more engagement of the students. We are already seeing some imaginative and creative teaching and look forward to seeing some real improvements in student engagement and learning.

Mr Greg Kluske, Director of Curriculum

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

SHROVE TUESDAY

This week, some of the Year 10 Religious Education classes made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday during their lessons. The students brought pancake mixes and toppings to school and enjoyed sharing a meal as a class community. Students have also been involved in the Ash Wednesday services at the College. Students are being encouraged to support Project Compassion by donating some money during homeroom over the coming weeks in Lent.



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

The Careers Newsletter is produced fortnightly and is emailed to every Year 10, 11 and 12 student. It is also uploaded to the Careers Website. If you wish to receive the Newsletter please email your details to Mrs Lewis jlewis@sjcmda.vic.edu.au.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING 2009

VE&T at St Joseph's College has more than doubled this year with 62 students from Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 undertaking a VE&T program in the following areas:

Building - 7	Hairdressing - 6	Plumbing - 6	Media - 1
Animal Studies - 2	Equine - 1	Aged Care - 1	IT - 1
Electro-technology - 4	Coaching - 1	Hospitality - 4	Automotive - 4
Engineering - 6	Business - 4	Massage - 2	School Based
			Apprenticeships - 12

A wide range of Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs are not only available to students undertaking either the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) at St Joseph's College but also to VO students who meet the eligibility criteria.

In addition to their VCAL or VCE certificate, students undertaking any VET course also gain a nationally recognised "Statement of Attainment", which details the competencies they have demonstrated in their chosen VET subject(s).

St Joseph's College VET programs are focused towards employment and provide additional pathways to University, TAFE, training and employment. Successful completion may provide the students with improved educational and employment opportunities because:

- VET Qualifications are nationally recognized
- Employers know that studies have included TAFE or workplace learning
- VCE students are able to use their VET subject in the calculation of their Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER) and keep Tertiary options open

Structured Work Placement is also an important component of all VET programs. It provides the context for:

- Enhancement of skills development
- Practical application of industry knowledge
- Assessment of units of competence
- Increased employment marketability

Work placement may be taken as one day a week during term time, during the school holidays or occasionally as block training during term-time, depending on the program in which the student is enrolled. During this work placement, students will have the opportunity to develop competence and may be assessed in the workplace.

BINGO

THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL

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

LOST NOTICE

At the end of last year, a pair of blue framed prescription reading glasses were lost at the College. If anyone knows the whereabouts of these glasses, can you please phone 0438 234 082.

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 re-discover the wondrous work of art that you are. The session will take place on **Wednesday, 4th 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, 27th February** by ringing the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

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.

LIBRARY NEWS COMPETITIONS

Information about the latest competitions can be found on the Resources/Library Resources page. Just select the Competitions link to find out more. In February and March, two competitions are being run.



NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

Visit the Mildura Rural City Council website to find information on the Youth Service Meaningful Writers Competition 2009. Also check out the Write 4 Fun website www.write4fun.net for the 2009 Schools Writing Competition.

SENIOR CRICKET REPORTS

SENIOR BOYS

The Senior Boys Cricket match was played against Mildura Senior College on Wednesday, 11th February in pleasant conditions and on a good fast pitch. The team consisted of; Brad Eagle, Lachlan Skinner, Alex Kuhanez, Tyler Martin, John Eckert, Jayke Barrack, Hayden Shepherd, Sean Doyle, Ryan Neyland, Clay Kerr and Robert Fahey. The Senior College batted first and was dismissed for 142 runs. Considering there were three first division SCA players in their side, this was a good bowling and fielding effort by St Joseph's College. Alex Kuhanez took 4/28, Brad Eagle 2/32, and they were well supported by Jayke Barrack, Tyler Martin and Hayden Shepherd. After losing 3 early wickets, St Joseph's College consolidated through the efforts of John Eckert who made 29, and a very good effort from the St Joseph's College skipper, Lachlan Skinner, who finished on 60 not out, with the team at the end of the innings reaching 5/153. The match was played hard, but in good spirit by both sides, which was great to see. All boys in the St Joseph's College team made useful contributions to what was a very good win – well done to all participants.



SENIOR GIRLS

The St Joseph's College Senior Girls Cricket team played Mildura Senior College in a game of Super 8's, at the Senior College oval on Wednesday, 11th February. The team consisted of; Michaela Jensen, Alison Eddie, Hannah Priest, Zoe Cetinich, Tehan Kelleher, Maddy Ball, Aislinn Campbell, Bree Robbins and Giorgia Zappia. The girls lost the toss and were put into bat against some very strong and accurate bowlers. Hannah Priest and Bree Robbins were bowled out on consecutive balls, but once Aislinn Campbell came to the crease, runs started to flow quite freely. Aislinn top scored with 12 runs, taking great advantage of the free hits and the double zone.

Mildura Senior College bowled very well and took 6 wickets with one particular bowler taking 2 for no runs. After the eight overs we were 6 for 22. To the girl's credit, they all bowled very straight and kept a lid on the score early on in the match. It was only in the last over that Mildura Senior College's top batter came to the crease and scored 7 in the last over. Alison Eddie was our best bowler with 2 for 2. Mildura Senior College were narrow winners by 5 runs. St Joseph's College better players were Aislinn Campbell and Alison Eddie. Well done to all who participated on the day.



SACRED HEART TENNIS CLUB

The Sacred Heart Tennis Club Beginners Program (6 week program) Registration Day and first week of tennis, will take place on **Thursday, 5th March** at "Aero" Complex, 11th Street Mildura. For information, see the Sacred Heart notice board or ring M Watson on 5023 2883.



The Sacred Heart Teams Registration Day will be held on **Thursday, 12th March**. All players wishing to join Sacred heart for the winter tennis season, please register at the Club Rooms "Aero" Complex or ring M Watson on 5023 2883, or leave a message at the Club Rooms on 5021 4673.

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.

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: _____ 2nd Preferred Day: _____

Is there a time when you are not available? _____

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS TIVER VIA YOUR HOMEROOM ROLL