

NEWSLETTER No. 15 – Thursday, 28th May 2009

“Try to meet all with peace and love”

Catherine McAuley (1778-1841) Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Year 8 students headed to the Grampians this week for their camp. Departing Mildura in a torrential downpour, they experienced wet conditions for the first couple of days. Despite the inclement weather, early reports suggest that there is a great spirit amongst the students on the camp. The camp has an environmental focus and the students are challenged to move out of their comfort zone with many adventure activities such as rock climbing and abseiling.

Language students from across the district participated in a Celebrating Languages Day on Tuesday at the Mercy Theatre. Groups from Years 7, 9, 10 & 11 represented St Joseph's to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Thanks to Mrs Marietta Haynes, LOTE Co-ordinator, for organising our involvement.

Our school information is co-ordinated by software called SIMON. Staff and students have access to SIMON to access a large range of resources and information. On Friday, Version 3 of this software was launched in Ballarat. What makes this software significant is that it has been developed, and is owned, by the Catholic secondary schools of the Ballarat Diocese. Great interest in the software is being shown across Victoria and a number of other schools have already bought into the project. Plans for the rest of 2009 include the development of a “partner” for SIMON – PAM (Parent Access Module). As the name suggests, this will provide parent access to information about their child via the web. I will keep you informed as the project progresses.

We were very pleased to receive notice this week from Minister Gillard that we have been successful in receiving funding from the Australian Government “National School Pride Program”. We requested funding to undertake building works to complete the section of the SJC Stadium that we refer to as the “undercroft” which is currently not able to be utilised.

Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES - ADVANCED NOTICE

Monday, 1st June – Portrait Photo Day - Year 8 students will not go to the SJC Stadium on this date, but will spend the day at the Twelfth Street site.

Thursday, 11th June – VCE General Achievement Test (GAT) – No VCE classes on this day.

Friday, 12th June – Report Writing Day (Student Free Day).

Monday, 22nd June to Friday, 26th June – Year 12 Retreat (Anglesea).

EXAMS

Exams commence for all students in Years 9 to 11 shortly and it is timely to inform you of the purpose of the exams and the procedures for student attendance.

RATIONALE

Exams are one form of assessment that teachers use to make judgements about student progress. They complement the various other assessment techniques used during the course of the semester. However, at the Unit 3/4 level of the VCE (mainly Year 12),

exams become the main method for judging student achievement in most subject areas.

Our Curriculum Committee decided a number of years ago that it was essential to prepare our maturing students for Year 12 by not only providing the appropriate subject skills and knowledge, but by allowing students to practice the techniques of sitting an exam. We have modelled our exams from Years 9 to 11 on the same protocols that are in place for Year 12. Our objective is to have our students walk into an exam room in which they are familiar with the



surroundings, procedures and expectations, and as a result, perform to their optimum.

DATES

Exams commence on **Monday, 22nd June** and continue until **Friday, 26th June**.

All students will shortly receive individual exam timetables via their homeroom roll. Copies of these timetables and a general exam timetable will also be available on the St Joseph's College Webpage.

TIMES

Exams commence at four times during the day:

* 8.50am * 10.40am * 12.30pm * 2.10pm

Most exams will be held in the College Hall. Students need to be at school at least 15 minutes prior to the exam start time to allow for preparation of materials, toilet break, etc.

Students need only attend school at the scheduled exam time. An attendance roll will be marked in the exam room, however, students are welcome at other times to study and can work in a supervised study room.

Students are expected to come directly to school before their exams and go directly home on completion of exams if they do not wish to stay on the premises. We do not expect to see St Josephs College students in the Mall, McDonalds, etc. during the exam period.

Students are required to attend exams for all subjects they are enrolled in. If for some reason a student is unable to attend a scheduled exam, as a general rule, alternative arrangements will not be made. If a student does not attend, a medical certificate or parental note outlining reason for non attendance will be required.

CLOTHING

Exams are to be completed **out of uniform** and students are requested to wear appropriate clothing that will allow them to sit comfortably for 80 minutes. Thongs are not considered appropriate or safe footwear.

EXPECTATIONS IN THE EXAM ROOM

These exams will be run under the same conditions as the VCE exams and students need to prepare as such:

- Students must arrive at the exam in plenty of time to be seated and will not be allowed to leave until the official finish time for the exam.
- Students should bring all of the materials required to sit the exam. They will not be allowed to borrow equipment from other students. Students should also bring a novel to read should they finish the exam early.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in any exams and must be handed to the supervising teacher at the commencement of the exam.
- Students must remain quiet at all times when in the exam room in the interests of other students.

REPORT WRITING DAY

Friday, 12th June has been set aside as a day for teachers to begin the report writing process in preparation for distribution at the end of the term. Students will not attend school on this day.

Mr Greg Kluske, Director of Curriculum

LOCAL EXCURSIONS

Monday, 1st June

Periods 6 & 7 MESVO0A to Sunraysia Skills Centre (Mr Doyle)

Tuesday, 2nd June

Period 6 & 7 Year 10,11,12 to Australian Ballet - Mercy Theatre (Mrs Kerr)
MWS081E to Round Again (Mrs Knight)
MWS081C to Botanical Gardens (Mr McCormack)
PEDSK03 to Sunraysia Ten Pin Bowl (Ms Howley)
MWS081E to Princes Court (Mr Towns)
DTW331A to Kitchen Creations (Mr Forrest)

Thursday, 4th June

Periods 2 & 3 PEDSK0A to Sunraysia Ten Pin Bowl (Mr Collins)

BINGO

THURSDAY, 25TH JUNE

Julianne Rigby	5023 2776
Debra Williams	5023 4704
David Anderson	0427 247 248
Steve Jensen	5023 7208
<i>Emergency: Veronica Kidd</i>	5021 3019

SENIOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES - MID YEAR VCE EXAM INFORMATION

YEAR 12 VCE SUBJECTS AND JUNE EXAM CYCLE

The first exam cycle for Year 12 VCE subjects is fast approaching.

A detailed timetable of when June exams are scheduled is available from this link <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 exams has been sent home this week.

It is recommended that families please look out for this information when it arrives and read it thoroughly and carefully especially the VCE Exams Navigator 09 which is available at: <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/publications/vceexamnav09.pdf>.

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST (GAT) EXAM

All students studying any Year 12 VCE subject in any year are required to sit the compulsory General Achievement Test (GAT) Exam. This is a test of knowledge and skills 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**, commencing at 10.00am.

This is a 3 hour long examination and 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.

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>.

I wish all students sitting exams the very best of luck. Should you have any further queries about any of this information please contact me as soon as possible.

Mr George Paolucci, Senior School Coordinator

SUNRAYSLIA YEAR 12 BALL 2009

When: **Friday, 12th June** 7.30pm to 11.00pm.

Where: Mildura Settlers.

Cost: \$25.00 per student and includes soft drink all night and supper.

Dress: Formal (no jeans or sneakers etc).

Tickets will not be sold at the door - NO TICKET, NO ENTRY.

Year 12 students can purchase their tickets from Mrs Fox at reception before and after school, recess and lunchtimes only. Tickets must be paid for by lunchtime **Friday, 5th June** at the latest.



Mr George Paolucci, Senior School Coordinator

KEYS PLEASE



Students and Parents listening to Vic Roads presenter Mr Murray Robinson.



Student Emily Gray with Vic Roads presenter Mr Murray Robinson.

Thank you to the parents and Year 10 students who attended the Key Please night for learner drivers last week. We are very fortunate to have the support of Vic Roads for this information night which provides valuable information to learner drivers and their parents. We look forward to running it again next year.

Mr Robert Wolfe, Wellbeing Coordinator

CELEBRATING LANGUAGES



On Tuesday, 26th May, students attended the 'Celebrating Language Learning' Festival in the Mercy Theatre at the St Joseph's College Stadium. Students from Years 7, 9, 10 and 11 performed in Italian, showcasing their talents and skills in language learning.

There were eight district schools participating from the Catholic, State and Independent sectors with performances in Auslan, Italian, Indonesian, German and Turkish. The day was organized by the LOTE Education Officers from the Catholic Education Office, Ballarat and the Department of Education, Bendigo.

The opportunity to perform with other schools and to entertain in another language is exciting and motivating for our students who are studying Italian at St Joseph's College.

Mrs Marietta Haynes, LOTE Coordinator

The Celebrating Languages Day was fantastic! Being able to perform and be entertained by students who are also studying languages, inspires you to continue with studying a language.

Natalie Mandica, Year 11

It was great to see how many schools are involved with the LOTE programs. There was a diverse range of cultures and acts and the Auslan (sign language) was especially impressive. Overall, it was a great day to see what schools in our area are doing with LOTE.

Rachael Vorwerk, Year 11

It was really great to be involved in a day like LOTE Day. Watching the performances from other schools was highly entertaining and enjoyable. It was also good to see so many students involved in LOTE programs.

Emily Gray, Year 10

Each school from all over the district put on a unique performance. Great music, great audience, GREAT DAY!

Ross Chisari, Year 11

CAREERS INFORMATION

UMAT

Applications for the UMAT close at 5.00pm on **Friday, 5th June**. You need to apply through website <http://umat.acer.edu.au/>.

Students wishing to study the following subjects at the listed States / Universities need to sit the UMAT:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	The University of Adelaide - Medicine, Dental Surgery, Oral Health.
NEW SOUTH WALES	The University of Newcastle/University of New England - Joint Medical Program. The University of New South Wales - Medicine, Optometry. University of Western Sydney - Medicine.
QUEENSLAND	Bond University - Medicine. Griffith University - Oral Health in Dental Science, Oral Health in Oral Health Therapy, Medical Science (MBBS). The University of Queensland - Medicine (Year 12 conditional entry), Dental Science.
VICTORIA	Monash University - Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmacy/Commerce, Physiotherapy. The University of Melbourne - Oral Health (Therapy or Hygiene). La Trobe University - Health Sciences (Dentistry), Oral Health Science.
TASMANIA	University of Tasmania - Medicine.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	The University of Western Australia - Medicine (undergraduate-entry program only), Dental Science.
NEW ZEALAND	The University of Auckland - Medicine. University of Otago - Medicine, Medical Laboratory Science, Dental Surgery, Physiotherapy.

UMAT PREPARATION COURSE

The Sunraysia Careers Association will be running a UMAT preparation course on **Saturday, 25th** and **Sunday, 26th July** through MedEntry. MedEntry have been coming to Mildura for a number of years now to deliver this course. For more information please contact Mrs Julia Lewis.

RSA, RSG AND FOOD HANDLERS COURSES

The courses listed below will be conducted at St Joseph's College over the school holidays. If you are interested in doing one or more of these courses please contact Mrs Julia Lewis. The cost is \$50 each or all three for \$100. The dates are as follows:

RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL

Date: **Monday, 29th June, Thursday, 2nd July & Monday, 6th July, Thursday, 9th July**

Time: 9.00am - 12.00pm

RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF GAMING

Date: **Monday, 29th June, Thursday, 2nd July & Monday, 6th July, Thursday, 9th July**

Time: 1.00pm - 5.00pm

FOOD HANDLER'S CERTIFICATE

Date: **Tuesday, 30th June, Friday, 3rd July, Tuesday, 7th July and Friday, 10th July**

Time: 9.00am - 12.30pm

YEAR 12 - WHAT NEXT? TERTIARY EVENING

This will be held on **Wednesday, 17th June** at La Trobe University Auditorium starting at 7.00pm. Year 12 students who are intending to take up Tertiary and TAFE studies in 2010 and onwards are invited to attend with their parents. Once final details are set a letter will be sent home to all Year 12 students.

David Osborne from VTAC and Lorraine Smith from SATAC plus other guests will be talking about the application process, preferences, the ENTER, offers, special provision, special entry schemes, scholarships, accommodation (types and costs), university courses, TAFE courses, what is on offer here in Mildura and what parents can do to support their children. We are hoping that we will be able to clarify more about the changes to the Independent Youth Allowance at this meeting as well.

Mrs Julia Lewis, Careers & VET Coordinator

MERCY ETHOS PROGRAMME REPORT

From the 19th-26th April this year, I attended the Mercy Ethos Formation Program "Catherine's Story, Our Story" at Baggott Street, Dublin - Home of Catherine McAuley and the seat of "Mercy". This is a program co-sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Melbourne Congregation and Mercy Secondary Education Inc. The program organizers were Deb Kent, Mercy Ethos Coordinator, Sisters of Mercy Melbourne and Sister Annette Schneider RSM, Education Leadership ACU. The facilitators were mainly sisters of Mercy from Ireland as well as Jacinta Prunty CHF from Maynooth University and Governor John Lonergan, from Mountjoy Prison, Ireland. We also had a visit from the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Anne Plunkett.

From the very first moment I crossed the threshold of Baggott Street, I knew my life was going to be forever different. The overwhelming sense of Catherine pervading the hallways, the stairs, the first Mercy classroom, the Chapel...the spirit of Catherine was everywhere!

We were greeted by Caitlin Conneely RSM who is the Director of the Mercy International Centre. She warmly welcomed us and then took us on a journey through Catherine's life. From such humble beginnings, such a legacy has grown. Catherine was such an inspirational leader, as we were to learn again and again during the week. After a tour of the house at Baggott Street and a scrumptious lunch provided by the sisters, we took taxis to Coolock House. Here we were enthralled by the amazing knowledge and passion of Jacinta Prunty CHF. Sr Jacinta is a historical geographer and she took us on a fabulous journey through the political, social and religious times of Catherine's Ireland.

A group of us sampled the cultural side of Ireland with a trip to the famous Temple Bar that evening - lively music, lots of laughing and talking and good food (and of course, some Guinness!)

Our week continued to be packed with history and we got to know Catherine and her first sisters very well. They were such courageous women. One afternoon we went on a walking tour of Dublin, following in the footsteps of the early sisters, walking where they would have walked on a typical day. We were exhausted by the end! It was no surprise to learn that some evenings the sisters would be too exhausted to climb the stairs on their return to Baggott Street and would often sleep at the foot of the stairs.

We went on a day trip to Charleville, which is about three and a half hours by bus south west of Dublin. Charleville is the home of one of the early Mercy Foundations, established in 1836. It was incredibly difficult for the early sisters. Many of them got sick and the walls of the convent would run with moisture. The mother superior (Sr Angela Dunne)

asked for permission to disband the convent, but Catherine sent letters of encouragement and hope, something she continued to do right up until her death.

The early foundations were all formed at the request of priests, bishops or wealthy families who were responding to the needs of their communities. Life in Catherine's Ireland was very difficult - famine, enormous poverty, religious persecution, disease and death.

Dervilla Byrne RSM spoke to us of Catherine's leadership as a model for ourselves. She spoke of the following:

- Leadership as service
- Belief in the dignity of the human person
- A builder of community
- An ability to listen
- A sensitivity in dealing with people
- Recognition of individual's gifts
- Helping people to believe in themselves
- Leader as mentor
- Ability to delegate
- Leading by example

We then looked at how this relates to our positions of leadership within our organizations and looked at the Vision Statements of the organizations represented (Mercy health, Mercy Education, Mercy Welfare and Fraynetworks). One of the greatest challenges we have as a leader is to sustain our ministry of leadership by being mindful of, and in touch with, what is at the centre - our source of energy and purpose - our vision.

We reflected on what Catherine's core purpose was: to provide a means of improving the lives of the poor by providing health care, sustenance and education, thereby restoring human dignity and purpose, bringing Christ's values alive, walking in the footsteps of the poor and needy. These core values are timeless, transcultural, non-negotiable and touch the soul.

And so, we asked, As Mercy people, what do we stand for? What are we really about? These are the crucial questions for people in Mercy organizations. To quote Governor John Lonergan, "*Vision without action is a daydream. Action without a vision is a nightmare*". The most powerful statement for me of the whole week was a quote from a female inmate of the Women's prison in Dublin, "*I alone must do it (bring about change), but I can't do it alone.*" That, as people of Mercy, is what we are there for - to be there for others. I think you can see why my life is forever different. I thank the leadership team of St Joseph's College and Melbourne Mercy Congregation and MSEL, for giving me the opportunity to experience Catherine's Story, Our Story.

Mrs Denise Knight, Mercy Ethos Coordinator

SSSSA CROSS COUNTRY

On Tuesday 19th May over 70 St Joseph's College students took to the scenic Apex Park to compete against other local schools in the annual Cross Country. Boys 16 years and up ran a looped 5km course and Boys 15 years and down and all Girl age groups ran a 3km course. It was a day built for running as the weather was mildly sunny with a slight chill in the air. All students represented the College with pride and special mention goes to students who were 'asked' to participate as we had many pull-outs due to sickness and injury. Some individual results were:

<u>13 Yr Girls</u> Chelsea Bryans 5 th	<u>14 Yr Girls</u> Melinda Casey 5 th	<u>14 Yr Boys</u> Lachlan Searle 5 th	<u>15 Yr Girls</u> Emily Bradford 4 th
<u>15 Yr Boys</u> Donald Cameron 4 th Alex Swinburne 5 th	<u>16 Yr Boys</u> Sam Kerridge 1 st Nathan Hickey 2 nd Sebastian Thys 4 th	<u>20 Yr Girls</u> Hannah Priest 1 st Bonnie Seymour 3 rd Zoe Cetinich 4 th	<u>20 Yr Boys</u> Patrick Kelly 5 th

To be eligible for the Senior and Junior Shields, schools need 5 runners in each age group. Unfortunately this year we were only eligible in the Junior Shield, which we narrowly won from Irymple Secondary College. Thank you to all the students for their efforts on the day and thank you also to the staff that assisted on the day.

Mr Josh McCormack, Sports Coordinator

PRAYER

HOPE IN OUR LIVES

This week, Lord, we give thanks for the recent rain that brings hope of fruitful harvests to our crops. May we use this experience of hope to also generate hope in a better future for our relationships and for our created world.

The Feast of the Ascension reminds us of the challenges faced by the disciples after Jesus left them. They faced uncertain times until the Holy Spirit came to give them hope and courage. May we face our challenges with renewed hope and courage as we move forward. Amen.

