

NEWSLETTER No. 20 – Thursday, 16th July 2009

“Try to meet all with peace and love”

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

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome back to the start of a new semester. This semester commences with Parent / Student / Teacher Interviews for students studying VCE subjects. Interviews for the other year levels do not take place until later in the year (October 13), however, you are invited to contact your child's Homeroom Teacher at any time should you feel the need.

We also welcome new staff: Mrs Sara Gleeson, Ms Jodie Mack, Mrs Kym Mayne, Mr Phil McDonald; and we welcome back Miss Mary Filippi.

The changes to Youth Allowance have been referred to a Senate Inquiry into Rural and Regional Access to Secondary and Tertiary Education Opportunities. The College and our Advisory Council intends to make a submission to the committee outlining a belief that rural students and families are disadvantaged under the proposed changes. If you are interested, the website for the senate committee is: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rrat_ctte/rural_and_regional_education/index.htm

Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal

NEW STUDENTS

A number of students have joined us at the beginning of this Term. We hope they feel welcome in our community.

- Josie Gleeson (HPA09) has moved to Mildura with her family and is in Year 9.
- Darcy Gordon (HMC11) has made the decision to resume his studies after being an apprentice for the first six months of 2009 and is in Year 11.
- Nick Skiadas (HCH09) is in Year 10.
- Courtney Wagstaff (HMC09) is in Year 9.
- Cameron Wild (HCH10) is an exchange student for Term 3 from New Zealand. He is in Year 9.
- Lisa Calis (HCH02) is an exchange student for Term 3 from New Zealand. She is in Year 9.
- Jacob Breguet (HXA03) has moved to Mildura with his family and is in Year 7.
- Kassandra Byers (HPA06) has moved to Mildura with her family and is in Year 9.
- Juliana Byers (HPA09) has moved to Mildura with her family and is in Year 11.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 22nd July

VCE Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Tuesday 28th July

VO/VCE/VCAL Information Evening

BISHOP LES TOMLINSON

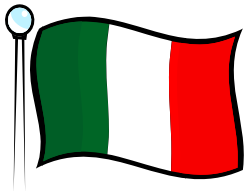
Bishop Les Tomlinson, the recently ordained auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, visited the College on Monday accompanied by his sister, Mrs Jan Gaffy. Both are past students of the College and had very vivid memories of their time here which dates back to the early 1960s. Bishop Les was able to recount to a group of students his experiences as a student under the tutelage of Sr Pancratius, when all of the senior levels were housed in a single room.



DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION

The first phase of the roll-out of new computers has commenced. Each of the McAuley rooms now has groups of thin client computers and the Arts Centre computer hub has also been upgraded. The Media Room has received high-end computers appropriate to the needs of these students. These computers are part of an Australian Government initiative to bring about a 1:2 ratio of computers to students.

STUDY TOUR TO ITALY IN 2010



The College continues the tradition of a study tour to Italy every second year. Our next planned tour is scheduled for the September holidays 2010. Study tours are a great

experience for those students studying the language; however, we have opened our tours to all students from Year 10 up, as well as parents, past students, past parents and teachers on previous occasions. We see value in the overall cultural experience as well as the enhancement of language studies.

Information sessions to outline the proposed tour will be conducted on **Wednesday, 19th August 2009** from 6pm to 7pm in room M21 (off Twelfth Street). This information session will help to gauge the level of interest and there is no commitment required at this time.

Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal

VCE PARENT / STUDENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

These will be held on **Wednesday, 22nd July** from 4pm - 7pm in Langtree Park. This will be the last formal opportunity to discuss student progress of Unit 3 / 4 students before the end of year exams. It also provides an additional time to discuss progress of students in Units 1 & 2 subjects, particularly those who are continuing on with a subject from first semester.

Reports that went home during the July holidays give an indication as to progress and if the teacher considers an interview necessary. However, parents are always welcome to come to parent teacher interviews to discuss their child's progress. Bookings for these interviews will be the same process as was used at end of Term 1. That is, parents will be able to make appointments to see teachers of **VCE Subjects** by calling the following number **5018 8009** from **July 14 - 20th** to make an appointment.

There will be Parent Teacher interviews for other year levels at the beginning of Term 4 on **Tuesday, 13th October**.

SUBJECT SELECTION

Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 students will receive subject information booklets next week via their homeroom.

The booklets mark the start of the important process of subject selection for these students. Over the next few weeks, students at these year levels have to make selections about what subjects they would like to undertake as part of either Vertical Organisation (Years 9 / 10) or VCE (Years 11 / 12) next year. It is an important and not always easy process. Students should take the time to familiarise themselves with the various subjects that are being offered, and attend the VO / VCE Information Night on **Tuesday, 28th July** 7.00pm - 9.15pm at the St Joseph's College Stadium (please bring your Subject Selection Booklet and pen). Between 7.00pm and 9.15pm there will be subject displays and teachers available to discuss subject selection and subject choices in the foyer and restaurant area near the entrance to the Basketball Courts.

You are welcome to attend this area at any time between 7pm and 9.15pm; however there are formal sessions that we recommend you to attend.

If your son/daughter will be in;

- Year 9 or 10 (VO) in 2010 - [7.15pm in the Mercy Theatre](#)
- Year 11 or 12 (VCE) in 2010 - [8pm in the Mercy Theatre](#)

Any students interested in undertaking a VCAL course in 2010 should attend a meeting at;

[8.30pm in the Mercy Theatre](#)

Partaking in this information evening should make subject selection a much easier process. It is also important for parents to involve themselves in this process. Talk to your student about what they want to do, why they want to do it and how best to achieve their goals? During this time homeroom teachers will also be working with students from their own homeroom, to ensure that the students fully understand the process and to provide support for them as they undertake these important choices for 2010.

EXAMS CERTIFICATE

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 sat exams at the end of last semester.

These exams are reported on with an exam certificate that will be mailed out to parents next week. Exams are only one form of assessment available to educators but when students get to Year 12 they become the predominant method of assessment.



Accompanying the certificate will be a letter explaining why we have the students at these year levels sit exams and what we hope to achieve.

Mr Greg Kluske, Director of Curriculum

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CURRICULUM

This semester the units of work to be studied by classes are as follows:

Year 7:

"How can we make a difference?" (about Jesus and how he made a difference)

"Relationships, Identity, Sexuality and Spirituality"

"Advent and Christmas"

Year 8:

"Jesus the Human Face of God"

"Why are there Differences in the World?" (examining religious diversity)

"Christian Decision Making"

Year 9:

"Eucharist" (the Mass as central to Catholic life)

"Relationships, Identity, Sexuality and Spirituality"

"Christian Decision Making"

Year 10:

"The Church Through Time" (development of the Church from early beginnings)

"Prophets and Saints" (how the Christian message is put into practice).

All year levels will incorporate Prayer and liturgy into the units during the semester.

Years 7 and 8 will attend at least one of the local parish weekday Eucharist's during this semester.

Year 9 will have a Eucharist at the end of the first unit of work this term.

YEAR 12 RETREAT

We would like to acknowledge the fantastic support given by students attending the week in Anglesea. Their participation and co-operation was outstanding and assisted staff greatly in conducting sessions. We would also like to acknowledge the commitment and involvement of the staff who attended. The student and family feedback has indicated that the teachers were able to create opportunities for genuine growth, both personally and communally. Thank you to those who wrote letters to students. Many a tear was shed during this process.

YEAR 9

Some of the Year 9 students will have the opportunity to participate in a survey being conducted by students at another Catholic Secondary school. This survey will seek student responses to a range of questions relating to how students see the Catholic nature of our school and the Church in general. This is a chance to build inter-school dialogue and to challenge our students to reflect on some important issues related to being at a Catholic school.

Mr Tony Finn, Director of Religious Education

POPE'S NEW ENCYCLICAL

On Tuesday, 7th July the Pope Benedict's third encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" - "Charity in Truth" was released in Rome.

Preparation of the encyclical over the past two years has taken place against the backdrop of the global financial crisis. The document spells out the fundamental prerequisites for a just society, noting that "the development of peoples depends, above all, on recognition that the human race is a single family". The Pope addresses key issues such as globalisation, technology, finance, energy, right to life, and the development of Third World countries. A central theme is that efficiency and profit cannot be the exclusive focus of economic activity: "The economy needs ethics in order to function correctly, not any ethics whatsoever, but an ethics which is people-centred." The encyclical can be downloaded from:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

Monday 20th	Netball Victoria - Junior & Intermediate Comp (Melb)
Wednesday 22nd	VCE Parent / Student / Teacher Interviews
Saturday 25th	Debutante Ball No 1
Monday 27th - Friday 31st	LOTE Week
Tuesday 28th	VO/VCE/VCAL Information Evening SSSSA Girls Netball SSSSA Junior & Intermediate Boys Soccer
Wednesday 29th - Thursday 30th	VIBE Alive
Friday 31st	CSSSA Chess Competition

LOCAL EXCURSIONS

Monday, 20th July

State Netball - Melbourne (Mrs Minter, Miss Howley, Mrs Sharman)

Periods 4 & 5 RELV22A to Buronga Primary School (Mr Eddie)

BINGO

THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST

Jen Ditchfield	5021 5966
Vikki Pearl	5022 7257
Cos Cirillo	0409 214 675
Mark Ljubic	0413 955 926
<i>Emergency: Jackie Bishop</i>	5025 4300

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MOBILE PHONES AND THEIR USE



Four in ten children aged four to seven have mobile phones, shows a study that has alarmed health professionals.

The survey of 257 parents of 517 children for the 'Generation Next' seminar series found, almost seventy percent of under 18's had a mobile phone, with one in four primary school-aged children who had a phone being allowed to take it to bed with them. In total, about 1.6 million children under 18 were allowed mobiles in their rooms at night.

Psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg says many parents were "*stupid enough*" to give young children phones and allow them to text friends in the middle of the night, leading to a generation of overtired "*zombies*". He said forty percent of children were sleep-deprived on school nights, rising to sixty-nine percent for 12 to 18-year-olds. "*I personally know of six and seven-year-olds staying up until 3am or 4am to send text messages to their friends,*" he said.

Dr Carr-Gregg blames "*peer pressure*" and time-poor parents for the problem. "*Parents are incapable of saying no,*" he said, adding that they often also allow TV's and computers in bedrooms. He called this "*neglect amid affluence*". "*They build these big houses but the children grow up in emotional silos,*" he said. "*A lot of (the parents) are very time poor and are also sleep deprived themselves.*" He thought, "*No child should own a mobile phone until high school, and all technology should be off and quarantined by 7pm or 10pm, depending on the child's age.*" Family psychologist Andrew Fuller said electronics of any kind in bedrooms was a problem and agreed parents loathed to "*displease their children*". "*The senior school students that we talk to are just so reliant and addicted to their mobile,*" he said. "*It doesn't have to be a problem as long as parents lay down some guidelines.*"



PRAYER

*Father, may we work to bring about the Kingdom of God here on earth,
so that those who do not share the resources of our planet have an opportunity to do so.*

*We pray that we will always value and respect what we have in our lives,
using these resources for the good of our communities,
and with respect to the future of our world.*

Amen.