

## NEWSLETTER No. 26 – Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009

*“There are things the poor prize more highly than gold, though they cost the donor nothing: the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look and the patient hearing of sorrows”*

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

*Dear Parents, Students and Staff,*

*There is feverish activity around the College at the moment as preparations for our first musical production are nearing finale. The next week will require extra practice, a technical and a full dress rehearsal, before the matinee performance on Thursday. Our Year 7 students and Year 6 students from our Catholic primary schools have been invited to this matinee performance. There is great excitement as the event draws closer. I encourage you to purchase tickets for either of the evening performances as I am sure you will be amazed by the wealth of talent on show.*

*Interviews with students and families joining the College in 2010 have commenced over the last week and will continue into next week. It has been a very enjoyable experience talking to these young people about their aspirations and of course, their anxieties about moving into secondary school. Should you know of a family who has delayed their enrolment for a particular reason, please suggest they contact the College immediately so that they can be added to the waiting list.*

*Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal*

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

Musical Production Dress Rehearsal

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Musical Production Matinee Performance

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Musical Production Performance (Evening)

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

College Ball (Student Free Day)

### STAFFING CHANGE

Miss Katy Quinlan departs for long service leave at the end of this week, for the remainder of the year. We wish Katy a rewarding, yet restful break.

We welcome to the College Miss Casey Gadsden as a replacement for Miss Quinlan. Casey will be teaching Italian, English and Religious Education. She will also be the Homeroom Teacher for HXA08. Mr Kevin Aston, Individual Programs Co-ordinator, will assume responsibility for students with special learning needs in Katy's absence.

We also wish Mr Robert Wolfe well for his short long service leave break to travel to his daughter's wedding.

## SJC PRODUCTION

**FRIDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**SATURDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**TICKETS:** \$10 concession, \$15 adults.  
Contact the College reception to reserve your tickets **NOW!**



## ABSENCES

In recent weeks, there has been an increase in absenteeism across the College. This is quite understandable, with the spate of illnesses in the region and in most cases cannot be helped. Any absence from class can be difficult to make up, especially from VCE classes. There is an expectation that VCE students maintain a very high attendance rate and are only absent for approved activities or genuine illness. Some students appear to be missing classes to prepare for SAC's in other classes; this is not to be encouraged. It only creates further issues down the track.

I also wish to remind parents that if your son/daughter is away from school, you are expected to make contact with the College to explain the absence. Please phone the Student Office on 5018 8051 or email [studentoffice@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:studentoffice@sjcmda.vic.edu.au) prior to 11am.

*Mr Kevin Towns, Deputy Principal*

## INSPIRATIONAL ARTWORK



Thank you to Madelyn Bell (Year 10) for donating this photograph titled "Mary and flower".

It seems to capture so elegantly a profound symbolism.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### CURRICULUM

**Year 7:** Most classes are moving into the unit "Relationships, Identity, Sexuality and Spirituality" which has a strong focus on valuing self and others, as persons made in the image and likeness of God. 7M have completed the Relationships unit and will be commencing "How Can We Make a Difference?" which has a focus on Jesus' message of a just world and our role in bringing this to reality in our lives.

**Year 8:** Continue with the unit "Jesus the Human Face of God" which helps students to more fully understand the person and message of Jesus as it relates to people today.

**Year 9:** Students are moving into an advanced unit on "Relationships, Identity, Sexuality and Spirituality". This has a clear focus on "Christian Decision Making" and how this relates to the students of today. We challenge students to see themselves as people with values, conscience and with the capacity to make healthy decisions that will assist them as they grow to adulthood. There is an open examination of sexuality as it relates to students and there is an evaluation of decisions that lead to various consequences related to relationships and identity. This is framed within the Catholic spirituality of the whole person being loved by God and called to building the dignity of self and others.

**Year 10:** Students are continuing to explore life in the Catholic Church in Australia since European settlement. This is encouraging greater awareness of the contributions of various cultural groups to the identity of the Australian Church, particularly in our local parishes. Students also examine the historical foundations of the Church from the Reformation period onward. This helps them to better understand the current situation of so many Christian denominations in our local and national communities. There is discussion of the processes in place to build closer relationships between Christian churches.

**Year 11:** The RE Art students are looking at the presence of God in the world, through Jesus coming at Christmas and what that means for Christians today. The Ethics students are continuing to build an appreciation of some of the different ways that people make decisions that involve values, principles and ways of determining what is right and wrong in a given situation that often involves a combination of factors to be considered.

**Community Service:** Many students in Years 11 and 12 are now showing evidence of a vast array of service to our local community. Students are showing a greater appreciation of the role volunteers play in our community and of the needs faced by many today.

*Mr Tony Finn, Director of Religious Education*

## LOCAL EXCURSIONS

### Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> August

All Day	PEDSC0B to Aero Ovals – Sacred Heart Athlectis (Ms Burke)
Period 2 & 3	TEXFA0A to Spotlight (Mrs Fraser)
Period 4 & 5	PED342A to Waves (Mrs Pike) RELV22A to Buronga Primary School (Mr Eddie)
Period 6 & 7	PEDSK0B to Ten Pin Bowling (Mr Collins)

### Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September

Period 2 & 3	MWS082C to Corbould Wetlands (Mr Finn, Mrs Johannssen)
Period 4 & 5	POD111A to Waves (Mr Reece)

### Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September

All Day	SSSSA Table Tennis – Irymple Leisure Centre (Mr McCormack, Mr Collins)
Period 6 & 7	RELV22A to Waves (Mr Eddie)

### Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Period 2 – recess	MW082G to Princes Court (Mr Towns)
Period 2 & 3	MWS082D to Oasie Aged Care (Ms Hagen) MWS082E to Sacred Heart School (Mrs Knight)

### Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September

Period 4 & 5	PEDOB0B to Apex Park (Mr Doyle)
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## BINGO

### THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Sally Crothers	0418 145 821
Kiri Fillery	5022 2034
Cameron Crothers	0418 145 867
Ashley Munro	5025 3305
Emergency: Narelle Gallagher	5024 7136

### THURSDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Catherine Healy	0437 936 276
Suliana Mataele	0448 658 687
Ken Knight	5025 7111
Neil Bradford	0427 947 650
Emergency: Chuck Audino	0427 686 405

## SUBJECT SELECTIONS FOR 2010

All Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 students have been busy completing subject selections over the last 4 weeks. The process required the inclusion of a parent's signature. It is hoped that this provided an opportunity for you as a family to discuss your son/daughters subject selections. If your son/daughter has not yet submitted their subject selection form, can you please encourage them to do so as soon as possible, as late submission can jeopardise the chances of them being able to do all the subjects that they want next year.

This year we have trialed a new online subject selection process with our Year 9 students. I would

like to take the opportunity to thank the Year 9's for the way they went about undertaking this trial. Initial results are promising and I look forward to the day when we can implement the online subject selection process at all year levels. The online subject selection process reduces the likelihood of students making incorrect choices as it automatically takes in to account pre-requisite subjects and the sequential ordering of subjects required in some Domains.

*Mr Greg Kluske, Director of Curriculum*

## UNIFORM

I would like to extend my thanks to the parents who support our school policy in relation to school uniform. The vast majority of students arrive at school in the correct uniform and usually wear it correctly and with pride.

At times, some students find that articles of clothing are in need of repair, get misplaced or are still being laundered; In these rare occasions, parents are asked to write a note stating the reason for their son/daughter being in incorrect uniform. Such notes will generally only cover a student for that day.

In the event that a student arrives at school out of uniform and without a parental note, the student will be sent to the student office where a student pass will be issued. Subsequent uniform infringements by a student may result in phone calls home or the student being withheld from class until the uniform issue is resolved.

*Mr Peter Carroll, Director of Students*

## TACKY TIE FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Padua and McAuley House will be holding a special 'Tacky Tie' fundraising day on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September** in support of Mercy Works.



Mercy Works Inc. supports the local and overseas relief and development activities that are part of the vision and mission of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia. The programmes engage in partnerships with communities to promote justice, self reliance and support to displaced people and communities who are denied access to basic resources such as education, health care and social welfare.

Students are asked to wear a 'tacky tie' with their winter uniform and bring a gold coin donation. There will also be a sausage sizzle at lunch time. We ask that all students participate and help raise money and awareness for Mercy Works.

*Mrs Fiona Pike, McAuley House Leader*  
*Ms Catherine Burke, Padua House Leader*

## NORTHERN ZONE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

### A VERY BIG THANKYOU!!

This conference was held on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August at St Joseph's College Stadium and was attended by approximately 280 people. St Joseph's College was approached by the organising committee in regards to the catering needs of this conference. Morning tea and afternoon tea and lunch for both days needed to be provided. While Sandra Tiver and Sally Fishwick sorted out the menu details, the Food Technology classes were ready and waiting to assist. Muffins, carrot cakes, mini quiches and rum balls were expertly prepared by various classes before the event and frozen in readiness for the day.

Two classes were selected to go to the Stadium each day and were given a multitude of tasks, such as making sandwiches, wraps, icing cakes, preparing dip platters, plating muffins, organising coffee/tea stations and stirring soup. Thank you to all the Food Technology students who deserve to be congratulated on their willingness to perform any task that was requested of them. The manner in which they conducted themselves was fantastic. The catering for this event would have been an enormous (almost impossible) task for Sandra and Sally without the assistance of the students. Thank you also to Cheryl Hartshorn and Frances Morey for their assistance with the students in the preparation of food and the supervision of students at the Stadium. A special thank you to Sandra and Sally for all their work and organisation in what was described as a very successful catering event.

*Mrs Kim Kelly, Food technology Teacher/  
Technology Domain Coordinator*

## NETWORK NEWS

Over the last several months, the incidence of breaches of the College Network Acceptable Use Policy has been increasing. This has occurred particularly in the area of the playing of online 'flash' games. This has had an effect on the load carried by the network and the ability of all students being able to complete tasks assigned by teachers. As a result, it has been necessary to make a decision, which, while it may be unpopular with some students, will benefit the users of our College network as a whole.

As part of the log on process for the network, the students will now see the following message:

*I have read the Acceptable Use Policy for the St Joseph's College Computer Network (a copy of which I have in my Student Planner).*

*I acknowledge that I will use the network in accordance with the AUP and understand that my access privileges may be suspended or revoked if I use the network in an unacceptable manner, e.g.*

- *Using the account of another student or teacher,*
- *Unauthorised access to files, or vandalising the data of another user,*
- *Accessing files that are obscene, violent, or that use language that offends, harasses or intends to degrade others,*

- *Accessing email during class without teacher permission, or using email in a way that offends, harasses or degrades others,*
- *Intentionally damaging or disrupting equipment or software,*
- *Using the network for unacceptable activity, such as the use of proxy sites to gain access to sites which have been deemed unacceptable or the playing of online games.*

Students accept this by clicking OK before completing their log on. When a student is found to be in breach of the AUP, the eLearning Coordinator will be notified and the student will lose the privilege of Internet access for a period of time. The student is still able to access the school network, their email and their documents; their ability to complete assigned tasks within class or study periods will remain unchanged. The only access to be revoked will be their access to internet sites outside the school network.

I look forward to all students taking this opportunity to use the College network within the guidelines, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of all other network users.

*Mr David Eddie, eLearning Coordinator*

## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE ANNUAL BALL

On the evening of **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September** the 51st Annual St Joseph's College School Ball will be held at the SJC Stadium from 7.30pm to 11.30pm. Entry on the night will be from the back car park on the restaurant end of the Stadium. Entry doors will close at 8.30pm.

The decoration theme this year is "Mod (Trends of the Hyper Cool)". "Mod" is the forefront of everything modern in which we live today.

We encourage all students to arrive with a positive attitude and to expect the unexpected. An unforgettable night is guaranteed!

Dress requirements for the night are:

**Boys** - smart pants, shirt with collar, tie and jacket.

**Girls** - formal evening wear.

**Formal attire will be strictly enforced.**

No theme costumes please. Wearing casual/sport footwear is not acceptable.

Tickets will go on sale next week; students should look out for notices in the morning bulletin.



## ST MONICA - FEAST DAY THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

**Patron saint of:** difficult marriages; disappointing children; homemakers; housewives; married women mothers; victims of adultery and unfaithfulness and verbal abuse; widows; wives.

### Parents' Prayer to Saint Monica



*Saint Monica, patron of Christian parents, we entrust to your protection, the children whose names you can read in our hearts. Pray for them, that they may be granted strength to combat weakness, victory over temptation, guidance to resolve their doubts, and success in all their*

*undertakings.*

*May they enjoy good health of mind and body, see beauty and worth in all created things, and serve the Lord with firm faith, joyful hope and enduring love. Amen.*

## A THOUGHT FROM THE URSULA FRAYNE CENTRE

Some thoughts to ponder;

- Constant affirmation without accountability is a sure-fire way to cripple a child. In other words, belief in yourself without responsibility leads to a sense of entitlement.
- Raise your hand if you've ever been rejected for anything, anytime, anywhere. We all have. How would you like to have a nice little four-letter word for the next time you're rejected? That word is: **NEXT**. Next sale; next job; next date; next whatever.
- Beware of people who use their own emotional pain as a tool to manipulate others, instead of as a motivation to change themselves.
- Parents of teens need to watch out for **NMK Syndrome**: Not My Kid, as in "*my kid couldn't have done \_\_\_*" (fill in the blank). Well, yes, they could

have. Even if you have faithfully raised them not to do certain things, kids still have the power of choice, which means they can make bad choices.

**NMK Syndrome can blind you to something that needs immediate attention. Trust in your kids and in your parenting, and always check out what you hear.**

- It is a humbling and sobering experience to have a child who wants to be like you.
- A successful marriage requires selective and strategic ignoring. The right things to ignore are little habits and irritating peculiarities that we all have. The problem comes when you select the wrong things to ignore.
- Most people live with the illusion that worrying about something can actually make a difference. The only possible way that worrying can make a difference, is if the worrying motivates you to take action to do something about the subject of your worry.
- People often say, "*I'm just going with the flow.*" The problem with going with the flow is, that many times the flow is lost and does not know where it is going.
- "*At some point though, a problem ought to be defined less by our ability to explain why it happens, than by our willingness to demand that it happen no more*" - quote by Leonard Pitts.

## MILDURA WEST CRICKET CLUB

All existing, past and new junior players are welcome to attend the 2009/10 season Junior Registration Day to be held on **Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> August** between 10am and 11.00am at the new Mildura West/Werrimull Football Club Rooms, Aero Ovals, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Mildura. Age groups for the season will be: Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16. For more information, please contact Shane Cumming on 0408 147 542.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR FAMILIES AND IN OUR WORLD

*As we work longer hours, face uncertain financial times and generally feel the pace of life taking us along with more rush than we would like, let us stop and pray for a real peace in life that only the Love of God can bring.*

*We pray especially for those who struggle to know how to find a way out of their problems.*

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let us sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is discord, union;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

*Grant that we may not so much seek*

*to be consoled as to console;*

*to be understood as to understand;*

*to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;*

*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

*St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)*