

## NEWSLETTER No. 33 – Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009

*“Will we all meet in heaven? O what joy even to think of it.”  
Catherine McAuley (1778-1841) Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.*

*Dear Parents, Students and Staff,*

*Tomorrow is a special day for both our senior students and our teaching staff. The long wait is over for Year 12 students as the written exams commence. Our thoughts and prayers go with our students that they have prepared adequately to be in a position to demonstrate their talents in the exam room. The students commence with the English exam at 9am. Year 11 students undertaking VCE Unit 4 studies are also required to participate in exams over the next couple of weeks and we wish these students well. October 30 is also the day that Victoria has designated as World Teachers' Day. The College will thank the teaching staff by hosting a special morning tea on World Teachers' Day.*

*Mr Darren Atkinson, Principal*

### WORLD TEACHERS' DAY



In 2009, World Teachers' Day explores the question 'What makes a great teacher?' and celebrates the important qualities and attributes of Victoria's teachers. Most adults can remember a teacher who had a significant impact on their development as an adolescent, regardless of how fondly their school days are recalled. What is interesting is the exercise of considering exactly what characteristics this teacher possessed that left a lasting impression. Many attributes come together to make a memorable teacher and identifying and prioritising these traits can lead to a very fertile discussion. What we do know from numerous studies is that the single most important factor determining the quality of education a child receives, is the quality of their teacher. The teachers at St Joseph's College are highly dedicated and deserve acknowledgement of their commitment to their profession.

### SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS

A reminder that next **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November** there will be no classes conducted and **Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, the College is closed for the Melbourne Cup public holiday.

### STAFFING

Miss Naomi Hinks, Librarian, commences Long Service Leave this week and we welcome back Mrs Dianne Johnstone as replacement for the remainder of Term 4.

### END OF YEAR MASS AT THE ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE STADIUM

**FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

The final Mass for 2009 will be an opportunity for parents, families and friends to show their prayerful support for our students, especially our departing Year 12 students. Parents of all year levels are invited. We ask that you inform Mrs Tracy Aston at the College of numbers attending, so that suitable seating arrangements can be prepared. This Mass is usually a time for Year 12 parents to reflect on the journey of their children through school and to pray for them as they venture on to new studies or employment in the future.

*Dr Tony Finn, Director of Religious Education*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### YEAR 11 AND 12 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**RE Art:** Unit 1 of VCE Art has been given a Religious Beliefs and Symbols focus within different periods of Church history. Students are led to see that religious beliefs are expressed in many ways, including art works such as mosaics and paintings. Students come to see that while religious beliefs remain constant, how they are interpreted and expressed may develop over time. Unit 2 of VCE Art has been developed to help students examine and express religious beliefs in art. A particular focus is on the birth of Christ and the religious meaning of Christmas.

**Religion and Society Unit 2: Ethics and Morality:** This unit exposes students to various approaches to making moral decisions. It looks at the use of principles and rules that help people. Also examined are processes that take the consequences of the decision as a major influence in decision making. Parents have very strongly supported the development of moral thinking within Religious Education, especially as senior students approach the end of secondary schooling.

**Religion and Society Units 3 and 4:** This unit is a subject that has equal standing with other VCE subjects. The unit deals with developing understanding of the core religious beliefs of the Catholic tradition and building knowledge of how these beliefs are expressed in liturgies, Church documents, art work and symbols, texts such as the Bible and in how the Church is structured and organized with its groups and roles. It examines both historical and contemporary challenges that affect the Church and analyses responses to these by the religious tradition.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Most Year 11 and 12 students are engaged in 20 hours each year of community based activity which addresses needs for individuals or groups in our local area. Parents have expressed very strong support for this arrangement as a means of awakening in students a sense of community identity and awareness of the needs of others. Students are encouraged to complete this early in the year to avoid the need for deadlines.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Students from Years 7-11 will be invited to participate in our annual Christmas gift appeal for the local St Vincent de Paul Society. This involves students, in class groups, bringing money, usually around \$5 (if this is not too demanding on families) and forming partnerships to buy gifts that are then collected and given to St Vinnies for distribution locally to families in need of support at Christmas. We would like to thank families for their continued support of this valuable project which allows students to become really involved by actually purchasing the gifts themselves.

*Dr Tony Finn, Director of Religious Education*

## LOCAL EXCURSIONS

### Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November

**Period 1 - 5** BIO222A/B to Kings Billabong (Mr McGlashan, Mr Grieger, Mr Eames)

### Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November

**Period 2 & 3** MWS082F to Mildura Special School (Mr Wolfe)

**Period 4 & 5** MED222A to Win TV (Miss Hagen)

**Period 6 & 7** HUM082K to Rio Vista (Mrs Knight)

### Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November

**Period 4 - 7** PEDOE0B to Stadium - Apex Park (Mr Doyle)

## BINGO

### THURSDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Margaret Burton	0409 502 414
Sally Fishwick	5024 7299
Robert Burton	0409 502 414
Ron Leamon	5022 1904
<i>Emergency: Alan Cameron</i>	0429 201 326

### THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Ruth O'Donnell	0407 491 143
Elvira Mazza	5021 1922
Dennis Homfray	5024 5526
Russell Ford	0418 315 938
<i>Emergency: Monica Nash</i>	5023 5839

## JUNIOR GIRLS CRICKET REPORT

On Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, Lucy and I offered our coaching skills to help out the Junior Girls Cricket team at Quandong Park, Red Cliffs.

Throughout the day the girls played four games against other schools around Sunraysia. We managed to win three out of the four games, losing closely to Irymple in the last game.

The team consisted of ten girls: Lucy Dal-Farra, Maddison Mayne, Lucy Parmenter, Maddison Pearl, Emily Carmichael, Katerina Stephens, Demi McKee, Melinda Casey, Julia Kingwill and Emilie Dyson-Berry.

All day the girls tried extremely hard and worked together as a team to have some great wins.

Results of the games were:

**Round 1** SJC defeated Trinity Lutheran College  
116 - 28 runs

**Round 2** SJC defeated Chaffey Secondary College  
93 - 84 runs

**Round 3** SJC defeated Red Cliffs Secondary  
College 121 - 86 runs

**Round 4** Irymple Secondary College defeated SJC  
90 - 72 runs

Overall the girls finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Most Valuable Player Award (MVP) was awarded to Lucy Parmenter and the McAuley Award went to Lucy Dal-Farra.

*Stephanie Leake & Lucy Timmons,  
Junior Girls Cricket Coaches*

## ART AND RE ART ANNUAL ACQUISITION PRIZE 2009

The final date for submission of artwork for 2009 is 4pm, **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November** at the Creative Arts Centre Office. Students must attach an application form to their artwork. The application form can be obtained from the Creative Arts Centre Office or from the Student Office.



Winners announced on Awards Night. The two winning entries become the property of the College and displayed with previous winners.

There are 2 prizes:

**Religious Art Prize: \$150**

**General Art Prize: \$150**

A panel of judges will select the artwork. This panel will consist of:

- The Arts Domain Leader
- The Director of Religious Education
- An external Artist
- *Miss Andy Higgins, Arts Domain Leader*

### ART AND RE ART PRIZE

#### SUBMISSION CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

- All artwork entered for selection must have been created as part of the Visual Arts curriculum during 2009.
- The student's subject teacher must authenticate the artwork.
- Artwork may be either two or three dimensional. There is no limit to the size of artwork.
- Students from all year levels may enter artwork.
- Students must submit an entry form with their artwork. Failure to do this will result in the entry not being judged by the panel.
- **Artwork must be submitted by Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 4pm.** Submissions after this time will not be accepted for judging
- If the judging panel does not deem any artwork to be worthy of a prize no artworks will be selected that year.
- The Judges decision is final.
- The Visual Arts faculty will set criteria for prizes annually.

### ART OF VOLUNTEERING

The MADEC Art of Volunteering Exhibition submissions have now closed and the interest from many of Sunraysia's budding artists was fantastic

The exhibition will commence on **Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November** and will run through until **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December** at the Mildura Arts Centre Gallery.

MADEC Community Development Officer Glenn Milne said this year's competition has attracted interest from all over the region, entries are starting to flow in from many local artists, community groups and both Secondary and Primary Schools. The competition is a great platform for both seasoned and budding artists to put their work on display for all to see.

Students entering have included those from St Josephs College Year 8 Mercy Works program. This is a community service learning program where students have been exposed to many different types of learning projects and have then devised their own projects in Semester Two. The students have embraced the concept of working for others to make a better world for all whole-heartedly. They have been involved in working with the elderly, people with physical and intellectual disabilities and the marginalized in our Sunraysia community.

Volunteers play an important part in making the Sunraysia region the vibrant community that it is. Volunteers assist in so many aspects of our everyday lives, sport, schools, service clubs, local events, charitable groups and in many other areas. The Art of Volunteering is a way of showcasing the amazing work volunteers do each and every day. Further information is available by phoning Glenn or Lucy at MADEC on 5025 9301 or [www.madec.edu.au](http://www.madec.edu.au)

## A THOUGHT FROM THE URSULA FRAYNE CENTRE

### LIVING WITH TEENS PART 3

#### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

#### **Spend time with your teenager:**

This is often hard to arrange as young people usually want to spend a lot of time with their friends. You may have to be very flexible in order to make sure it happens. Here are some suggestions for special times.

- Mealtimes; if the family eats together, at least on some occasions you can share what happened in your day, what's the latest news, their ideas and interests.
- Drive them when they need to be dropped off. Offering to drive gives you a good opportunity for time together. Teenagers often talk more easily when not looking at you face to face.
- Bedtime; a visit to their bedroom for a casual chat can work for you both.
- Suggest a coffee or milkshake; probably at a cafe where their friends don't usually go—teenagers are often embarrassed if their friends see that they are out with a parent.

It isn't easy to find special times but if you can manage it's worth it.

#### **Respect their privacy:**

All young people need reasonable privacy and 'space'—and even some secrets from parents. (This is not necessarily bad; however what those secrets are is significant).

- Give them some space of their own. Ask their permission to enter their room.
- Don't go through their diaries or drawers in their absence.

Don't pry for information except where it is important for you to know to make sure they are safe. For example, it is okay to ask teenagers to let you know where they will be when they are not at home. A question to your teenager going out is—

*'What are you going to do to make sure that I don't need to worry about you?'*

- Broadband in a room with a computer without monitoring is not appropriate for most teens, especially boys who are vulnerable to pornography and all teens that tend to time waste.
- Responsibility should increase with age. For example, 14-year-olds need monitoring but 18-year-olds should have lots more freedom and privacy.

#### **Take an interest in their interests – and share yours:**

- Try really listening to some of their music and then talk about the words of songs you like best.
- Watch their sport or activities – don't coach them (unless you are the official coach), but be supportive.
- Watch their favourite TV shows with them sometimes – without being too critical.
- Try sharing something about your work or your interests as you would with an adult friend.
- Share something about your own adolescence (without preaching!) and share a laugh with them about how things have changed.
- Take them to a movie that you would both like (or go to one of theirs) and ask what they liked and didn't like about it.
- Get to know their friends - know their names and what they're interested in. Encourage them to bring them home and show some interest in what they have to say.

#### **Show your love for them:**

Love needs to be continually shown in order to be felt.

- Tell your teenagers often that you love them (when the time seems right).
- Show your love by touching and hugging (teenagers who say they are too old for hugs will often accept a quick hug before they are fully awake in the mornings, or will like to have their aches massaged after sport).
- Buy their favourite food sometimes.
- Buy something on a shopping trip that says *'I was thinking about you'*.
- Go out of your way to help them with special projects.
- Pick them up from outings on the other side of town.
- Leave a note on their pillow telling them that you felt proud of something they have done or that you love them (for no particular reason).

#### **Make special memories:**

Doing special things together can have lasting effects.

- Take one of your teenager's friends on holiday with you.
- Take the family to a special show you would not usually go to.
- Create traditions that are special to your family, for example, a special way that you always celebrate birthdays.

- Make sure that your teenager feels a part of the wider family, for example, by sharing family occasions. (Many teenagers groan about these for a while but they are also part of their security).
- Make a wall hanging of photographs of family and friends, over their childhood and growing up years.

#### **Have faith in them:**

- Let them know they are special.
- Ask their advice about something they know a lot about, for example, how to program the video.
- Keep a scrapbook of their special achievements.
- If they make mistakes have faith that they will do better next time.

#### **Be there for them:**

No matter how independent they are, or may appear, they need always to have a sense that you will be there for them – even when you don't see 'eye to eye'.

#### **Take care of yourself:**

Giving teenagers a sense of some control in their lives is important for them – and having control of things about safety and health is important to you. Teenagers are often pleased to see parents taking care of their own needs – it sets a good example.

#### **Reminders:**

- Investing in time will pay back in terms of your teenager's behaviour and self-esteem and your relationship.
- Teenagers need to know that you love them and believe in them, despite how much they might ignore or make fun of your efforts.
- They need ongoing attention.
- Don't confuse your teenager's *'wanting her own way'* or *'testing limits'* with *'her rights'*.
- Don't compare your teenager to others, or to yourself as a teenager.
- Remember to keep their confidences (even if they don't always keep yours!)
- Take some time out for yourself. Start thinking about your dreams for yourself when your children grow up.
- Having a relationship which allows differences to be expressed without fear is a good and healthy one.
- Remember that no parent is perfect and that perfect parents would be very hard to live with.

#### **Want more information?**

Parent Link [www.parentlink.act.gov.au](http://www.parentlink.act.gov.au) 13 34 27

**PRAYER**

As students prepare for VCE Exams some of our Year 7 students have prepared special prayers for them. We encourage all families to pray for our senior students that they will be able to do their best in their exams and so reflect their efforts in 2009 and previous years.

*Dear God,*

*We pray for the year twelve's at St Joseph's College.*

*We pray that they continue on with their journey and have a great life and they are as safe as they can be.*

*We also pray that they get a great job in the future.*

*Amen.*

*Dear God,*

*We pray for the year twelve students that they've had a wonderful six years at St Joseph's College and that they keep these memories in their hearts for the years to come.*

*Amen.*

*Dear Mary,*

*We pray for the year twelve students that they do their final exams the best they can so they can achieve their goals in life.*

*Please bring these prayers to your son, Jesus.*

*Amen.*

*Dear God,*

*We pray that all the year 12s have a really good life after school and they look forward to whatever they want to have as a job.*

*We also pray that they don't stress through exams and they just get in the exam room and just think about if it's a normal test at school.*

*Amen.*

*Dear God,*

*We pray that the year twelve's try hard and go well in their exams and that they get the results they need so they can do and be what they want in their lives.*

*Please guide them to make the right decisions in life and that they fulfill their dreams and have great, happy lives.*

*Amen.*

**Debutante Presentation Ball 2010**

The St Joseph's College Debutante Balls continue the fine history of providing a wonderful and memorable evening of tradition and ceremony.

Planning has commenced for 2010 and two dates have been selected ~ **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July**. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from young ladies who will be in Year 11 in 2010. At this stage it is envisaged that debutante training will be conducted on Wednesday evenings commencing in May. It is preferred that that debutante's choose partners from the College. Partners are to be Year 11 onwards only.

Please complete the form below and return to the Student Office as soon as possible.

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

**St Joseph's College Debutante Presentation Ball 2010**

Debutante Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Debutante Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Partners Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partners Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE STUDENT OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**