FROM THE PRINCIPAL

PARISH WELCOME DINNER
On Friday Night of last week St Peter’s students assisted in the hosting of the welcome dinner for new Parishioners at St Agatha’s. I am grateful for the volunteers listed below who assisted with the dinner where over 70 new parishioners were welcomed into the Parish. It is always heartening to see our young people voluntarily contribute in this way and it says a lot about the value they place on community.

Kaitlyn Walker    Emily Dryden
Sandrine Harridge  Larissa Rixon
Christian Barrales  Theresa Manase
Namo Manase  Taryn Johnson

HARMONY DAY
On the 22nd of March, St Peter’s will celebrate the contribution of the many cultures that makeup our community. Under the theme of “We all Belong” a range of activities lead by the senior students will take place including the wearing of National Dress a lunchtime concert and other fund raising activities for CARITAS. Multiculturalism is an integral value of Australian society and at St Peter’s we have an appreciation of all that is brought to our community by our students, families’ and staff from a variety of different backgrounds. We look forward to this celebration of our culture and community.

YEAR 7 CAMP
This week the year 7 students head off to Camp Rumbug in Foster for three days. 19 staff members lead by Year Level Co-ordinator Mr O’Hara will attend the camp and I am grateful to them all for the care and enthusiasm that they will bring to this camp to ensure its success.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to two of our Year 12 students from last year, Daniel Green and Rachel MacDonald who have been accepted into the Australian Catholic University Early Achievers program. Daniel and Rachel will begin their studies at Australian Catholic University in March and have been selected because of their academic performance in Year 12 and also their demonstrated commitment to this community and enthusiasm to succeed. I wish them well in their future studies.

STAFF CHANGES
Mrs Antonia Hemming will be on maternity leave from the end of this term and we wish her and husband Justin all the best in this exciting new phase of their family life. I welcome Emma Notman who has a major in History and Religious Education from Australian Catholic University who will replace Mrs Hemming for the remainder this year.

END OF TERM
The end of term is fast approaching and I encourage all parents to take advantage of the parent teacher interviews on Thursday and Friday of next week. This presents an ideal time to gain feedback on how your sons and daughters are performing across all subjects with a view to identifying any areas for improvement in term 2. One of the more important skills that a child can learn through their school years is that of persistence. The ability to persist through difficulties in all areas of life but in particular difficulties related to their studies is something we look to encourage. Some of our students have the perception that success in any endeavour should come easily. Life teaches us that this is rarely the case and that often the difference between achieving our best or settling for less comes down to how persistent we are.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE
In the last week of term I will be on Long Service Leave and Mrs Hanney will be Acting Principal in my absence. I wish all members of our community a safe, happy and holy Easter period, a period central to our Catholic faith where we reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the meaning this gives to our humanity and God’s promise for eternal life.

Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
All parents are advised of the importance of utilising the currently available free vaccine to protect against the H1N1 Influenza 09 (Swine Flu) for the 2010 flu season. Please note:

- The Department of Health advises that a FREE vaccine to protect against the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) is still available.
- The vaccine is available from local doctors and some local councils. Note that some doctors may charge a consultation fee.
- Advice from the Department of Health indicates that the Swine Flu is expected to return to Australia for a second wave, probably much earlier than the normal flu season.
- Further advice is that it is particularly important to vaccinate children, adolescents and young adults as this influenza strain spreads more readily in these age groups.

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

This week, all parents will be sent details for the arrangements of Parent Teacher Interviews to be held next **THURSDAY 25 March and FRIDAY 26 March.** As soon as you receive your access codes and instructions for the booking process, parents will be able to enter the PTO site on the college website from any internet connected computer. If this poses a difficulty for any parent, please contact the college office for assistance.

**Please note : The earlier you make your bookings, the more choice of times you will have!**

Once again, I encourage all parents to make the time to see the teachers of their sons and daughters at this important time. All Year 12 teachers will be requesting interviews so again, we ask parents to ensure that they see the Yr 12 teachers of each subject being undertaken by their child in Year 12. I thank parents for your support in this regard and look forward to seeing many of you there next week.

Elizabeth Hanney
Deputy Principal

**VALUABLES**

Students are reminded that bringing valuables to school should be avoided where possible, unless it is absolutely essential to do so.

Therefore, Ipods/MP3s (non essentials) should be left at home.

In the event that valuables are brought to school, they should be locked away in the student’s locker during the day. This means it is essential that every student has a lock on their locker.

Anthony Banks
Deputy Principal

**HINTS FOR PARENTS part 3**

The final part in the series of ways for parents to assist their children at school.

10. **LISTEN**

Often a sympathetic ear is all that is needed. By giving advice you may think you are helping - and you may be. But think of your own reaction when someone gives unasked-for advice. And sometimes, even when you ask for advice, you only want the other person to listen. Listen to your child very carefully before giving advice. Most of the time the problem will vanish as they talk to you.

11. **PLATITUDES DON'T HELP**

So never say that ‘Science is terribly important these days’ or ‘Never put off till tomorrow’, You may believe it to be true. But just try to recall the monumental problems that you faced as a teenager. The pressures put on students by their peers may cause them to be terrified of going to school. If they tell you that they don’t want to go to school and you reply that ‘the best days of your life are your school days’ or something similar, you’re likely to get a less than receptive response. Try to look behind the problem. Usually you will find another problem that may be fixed. Then the original problem will vanish.

12. Accept that it is quite normal that there will be times when “it all becomes too much” for your child and they will question the value of school/education etc. This is common in students who have no goals or direction, or who are putting in the effort with little perceived return.

Encourage them to set mini (short term) goals to achieve their big (long term) goals and; to focus on the mini goals. Ensure the goals they set are measurable and that they are praised in some way for their achievement.

13. Encourage students to take part in sport and other extra curricular activities such as outreach/social justice, music, drama. This allows them to relieve stress and adds balance to their lives.

14. **THE GOLDENTRIAD**

Supporting a child means more than physical and materialistic support. At some stage you will have used the GOLDEN TRIAD:

- **THE SMILE OF ENCOURAGEMENT**
- **THE APPRECIATIVE WORD**
- **THE HUG**

If the last time you used them was when your child was a baby, try them again now. They worked when your child was trying to walk and talk and you’ll find that they still work now. No one is so old that the GOLDEN TRIAD won’t make them feel 10 feet tall.

**INTERIM REPORTS**

Interim Reports have been completed by all teachers and should be received at home by the end of the week. If you haven’t received the Report by the end of Monday, please contact the College Office. Parents are asked to bring Interim Reports in the Parent Teacher meetings next week. Please also ensure that your child accompanies you along with their Record Book.

James Roberts
Director of Learning
CONGRATULATIONS to Michael Russo (11F) who performed in the MOOMBA Ski Show over the long weekend. Michael is aiming to compete in the Wakeboarding events at next years Moomba festival.

TEGAN MCGREGOR (11 C) is leaving for the UK this week to compete in the World Irish Dancing Championships. We wish her good luck in her competitions.

SAC RESITS - A reminder to students and parents that SAC resits are held every TUESDAY after school from 3.30pm - 4.45pm. Students MUST attend a SAC resit if they miss a scheduled SAC during class time. A medical certificate must be supplied for students to receive a grade for the task. Please refer to the Student and Parent Information Handbook for further information.

SENIOR INFORMATION NIGHT – Thank you to the students and parents who attended this evening. It gave parents an opportunity to meet with myself and Homeroom teachers, and to clarify VCE / VCAL procedures for 2010. If you were unable to attend, please forward a note to me via your son/daughter, so that I can forward important documentation to you.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS - At Yr 11, many staff request an interview with parents, to report on the students progress and achievements, and possible goal setting for the remainder of the semester. I encourage you to make an appointment with staff who have requested one, and also feel free to make an appointment with other staff if you have concerns regarding your son/daughter's course of study.

HOMEWORK - Students in Yr 11 will have homework in all subjects, and are expected to complete approximately 2.5hrs per night. This can also include revision and completion of tasks set over a longer period of time. I ask that parents please check the Student Record Book and make sure that your son/daughter has been filling in tasks set and due dates for work. Please sign the Record Book at the end of each week, as it is regularly checked by Homeroom teachers.

With the holidays approaching, we are all looking forward to some rest and time with family and friends. Students will have Holiday Homework in most subjects, so it important that they plan their time wisely over the well earned break.

Ms Gina Goss
Yr 11 Coordinator

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS HANDBALL
The Intermediate Girls handball team played against St Johns here at St Peters on Friday 12th March. The girls played a very good defensive game, and their pressure led to many fast break goals. The team come away with a comfortable 15-0 win to remain unbeaten with one game remaining. Cristin Daly played outstanding scoring 7 goals! The girls now have one more game remaining against St Francis Xavier which will decide who wins the premiership for the season.

Justin De Goldi
SPORTS COORDINATOR

BOYS INTERMEDIATE CRICKET 12/3
Last Thursday we came up against St James at home. Batting first we started slowly and continued to loose wickets to be all out for 75. The only batsman to get going was Matt Prosser, who led from the front and made 42.

We made a contest of it for a while, but did not have enough runs on the board. Best bowling was from Sam Frawley 1/15 and Matt Prosser 1/13. Fielding was solid and despite the excellent leadership of Dan Martens and Matt Prosser, we could not prevent a comfortable St James victory.

Scores
St Peters 75 St James 5/79

Keith Carmody
COACH

CULTURAL INFUSION
National Schools Program

For a true insight into youth culture and the positive outcomes and benefits students can receive enquire about our Contemporary Youth Culture Program.

Students are able to enter the Open Schools category of our Freestyle Masters of Hip hop tournament which has qualifying events in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane on 3 April 2010 with the National Final being held at Shed 4 Docklands, Melbourne from 3-8pm on Sunday, 18 April 2010.

As part of this event and National Youth Week, there will be a forum on Contemporary Youth Culture for teachers, parents and students to attend on the 16th also. Competition and forum details are available at www.freestylemasters.org.au

Please refer to your Cultural Infusion Teacher Resource booklet and Key Dates poster sent to you recently for more information. If you have not received your booklet and poster please contact us on 1800 010 069 or info@culturalinfusion.org.au to request your kit or to make a booking enquiy.
We are over half way in the season of Lent and is nearing completion. As part of our Lenten journey here at College, we have been busy collecting money and filling the Project Compassion boxes. This year to help raise funds we will be celebrating Harmony Day. This day is traditionally held on March 21st. As is this is a Sunday, we will celebrate Harmony Day on the Monday. Harmony Day celebrates the cultural diversity of our Nation and the wonderful things that all these different nationalities bring to Australia. The proceeds from this day will go to Caritas’ Project Compassion. Our students have traditionally supported Project Compassion in a big way. We hope, with your support, our students can fully support this very worthy cause.

In addition to the normal coursework undertaken in class time, our students will be participating in a Stations of the Cross liturgy on Thursday 25th March. We will re-enact the passion of Jesus and journey with Him from the Last Supper to His crucifixion. It is hoped that the students will come to a better understanding of the significance of these events and the Christian message of Hope in the Easter story.

Great God,
Give us the strength it takes
to listen rather than to judge,
to trust rather than to fear,
to try again and again
to make peace even when peace eludes us.

We ask, O God, for the grace
to be our best selves.
We ask for the vision
to be builders of the human community
rather than its destroyers.
We ask for the humility as a people
to understand the fears and hopes of other peoples.

For You, O God, have been merciful to us.
For You, O God, have been patient with us.
For You, O God, have been gracious to us.

And so may we be merciful
and patient
and gracious
and trusting
with these others whom you also love.

This we ask through Jesus,
the one without vengeance in his heart.
This we ask forever and ever. Amen
-Sr. Joan Chittister

Bernadette Tolan
Religious Education Leader