Catholic Education Week
This week we celebrate Catholic Education Week in the Diocese of Sale. The Catholic Education System nationally educates 696,000 students, employs 78,000 staff and consists of 1700 schools. The numbers alone indicate the important role that we have in preparing our young people to take their place in the wider world inspired by the example and message of Jesus Christ.

Within our own Diocese we educate over 10,000 students through 41 primary and secondary schools. Our history records that it has not been an easy task to establish our schools and many sacrifices were made by Parish communities at a time when no Government funding was available. Catholic Education Week gives us time to appreciate and give thanks to the many priests, nuns, brothers, lay staff and parish communities whose inspired faith has given birth to the great education system that we have today.

A number of activities will be taking place this week through the diocese to celebrate Catholic Education Week. One of which is the annual Leadership Mass and Dinner to be held at Pakenham this Thursday and I congratulate Laura Ryan from the Class of 2009 who will receive at the Leadership Dinner the Archbishop D'Arcy Religion Prize for her outstanding result in the Religion and Society Unit 3 & 4 study.

On Friday of this week a number of our students will be attending the Children's mass at St Mary Cathedral in Sale. Students from all over the diocese will attend the mass celebrated by Bishop Prowse with a special focus on the aims of Catholic Education. We are also fortunate to welcome Bishop Prowse to St Peter's this week where he will address all of our Year 12 students on the challenges and joys of living the Catholic Faith in the Modern World.

Vision and Strategic Plan 2010 - 2015
Catholic Education Week is also an appropriate time to present to our parent community our Vision and Strategic Plan for the years: 2010 to 2015. The Vision and Strategic Plan is the result of consultation with the key stakeholders in the school community throughout 2009 including all Staff, the College Board, the Parents and Friends Association, the Student Representative Council and the Catholic Education Office.

I am particularly pleased with our Vision Statement. It captures the passion within our community and provides clarity for us in three important areas. Who we are as a Catholic Faith Community, how this empowers us in our teaching and learning and finally how the synergy of faith, teaching and learning produce not only a distinctly Catholic view of the world but also an engagement that renews the wider world.

Each family will receive a copy of our strategic plan this week and I commit myself and the resources of this college to its fulfilment.

Mr Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
The McGuigan Shield is named in honour of Father McGuigan, who was the Parish Priest of St. Agatha’s at the time the college was first established in 1987.

The McGuigan Shield is awarded to the house with the most number of students participating in extra-curricular activities throughout each term. Each house will be allocated points whenever a student volunteers for an activity. These activities come from all areas of student interest within the school. Throughout Term 2 students will earn points for the following activities:


All students who participate in these events will receive points for their house.

You can see that the McGuigan Shield is not only about sport but about participating in all areas of school life. School only becomes fun when you participate in activities, so join in and help your house win the McGuigan Shield.

Stop Look Listen Think

The Victorian State Government has created a “Stay Safe Around the Bus Stop” initiative. The aim of this initiative is to raise the safety level of our student bus travellers, given that each day, 70,000 students travel on buses in Victoria in order to get to school.

Please take the time to read the brochure attached to this newsletter and go through the important points with your children. The initiative will also be discussed in homerooms this week.

Thank you for your support with this important initiative.

Anthony Banks
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Career News

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE - A reminder to all year 10 students and parents that work experience starts in less than 6 weeks! Any students who are having difficulty finalising their placements can visit the careers room for assistance.

CHECK OUT MONASH UNIVERSITY – Monash is again conducting their ‘At Monash’ Series of presentations for Year 11 and 12 students and parents in various faculty areas. These provide an opportunity to hear from staff, current and past students at one place. Coming up soon (all at 6.30pm):

- Tues 4 May: Education, Sport and Outdoor Recreation at Peninsula campus
- Wed 5 May: Arts (Humanities), Drama and Theatre Studies at Clayton
- Tues 11 May: Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Cossar Hall, Parkville
- Wed 12 May: Architecture at Caulfield
- Mon 17 May: Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy at Peninsula
- Wed 19 May: Business and Economics at Caulfield
- Thurs 20 May: Engineering at Clayton
- Tues 25 May: Science at Clayton

In June, IT, Law, Health Sciences & Social Work, Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedics, Medicine, Biomedical Science, Radiography and Nutrition and Dietetics, Psychology and Behavioural Neuroscience and Design, Fine Art and Multimedia will also be featured (details later). Bookings: www.monash.edu.au/atmonash

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST (UMAT) Applications have opened for this test. If you are in Year 12 and plan to apply for Medicine, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy/Commerce or Pharmacy at Monash University or for Oral Health (Therapy or Hygiene) at Melbourne University you must sit the UMAT as part of the application process. Several interstate universities require the UMAT as well. Registration deadline: 5pm AEST Friday 4 June 2010; Test date: Wednesday 28 July 2010. See: http://umat.acer.edu.au for details.

* Remember if you have not sat this test you cannot apply for these courses!

MOODLE – The most recent careers news edition is now available on Moodle – please access it for more important careers news.

Shannon Maher
Careers Coordinator

Japan Study Tour

10th September – 30th September

Thank you to those families who attended the information evening for this year's Study Tour to Japan. If you were unable to attend and would like more information, please contact Miss Faulkner. Please be reminded that the deposit for the tour is due to the college office by Friday 30th April. Also by this date please hand to Miss Faulkner the student profile form, medical form, behavior contract and a copy of your passport. Thank-you

Melissa Faulkner
LOTE Coordinator
SAVER PLUS
Brotherhood of St Laurence

Would an extra $500 help cover your education costs?

Saver Plus is a nationally-recognised program that pays people $1 for every $1 saved (up to $500) to help pay for education. By joining Saver Plus you could receive $500 to help pay for school items like computers, community activities, books and uniforms.

The program is Australia’s first matched savings program, designed to help people and families achieve a savings goal, establish a long-term saving habit and pay for education.

To be eligible you must have:
- A child attending school in 2010, or be intending to attend vocational training in 2010-2011.
- A current health care card or pension card and
- Regular form of paid employment (yourself or partner).

Please contact Sandra Scott at Brotherhood of St Laurence on 8781 5937 or email SScott@bsl.ord.au

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

PARISH MISSION: Presented by Fr George McInnis of the Fathers of Mercy in the USA begins next Sunday Evening 2 May at 7.30. The morning session will begin with Mass at 9.30am & the evening session begins at 7.30pm concluding with Benediction. Please mark your diaries now. This is a very special opportunity of grace and blessing for each of us and our families. Jesus calls us to deepen and renew our faith and love. Let us not let him down.

FAMILY PRAYER MEETING: Even if you don’t have a family please come, we will adopt you for the night. Friday 30 April in St. Agatha’s Hall. 6.30pm for dinner (please bring a meal to share). Contact Christine 0438 364 881 or Joh 0417 558 650 for more info.

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On Wednesday last week, the Year 11 students set off on their annual Retreat. The theme this year was “Be Not Afraid”. The retreat is an important part of the faith development of the Year 11 students and a chance for the whole group to spend time looking at their place in the world in a quiet and reflective manner. Students had the opportunity to reflect upon themselves, their relationship with others and their relationship with God. The Retreats were very successful with students accepting the challenge to enter into the different activities with an open mind. The various activities were designed to assist and guide the students to a better understanding of themselves, others and God. Whilst on Retreat, Deacon Tony visited to assist in the celebration of a Liturgy at each of the three venues. The spirit generated at each venue was very positive and the students should be congratulated for their wonderful effort and contribution to the success of our retreats.

Last Sunday was Anzac Day and the school commemorated that event yesterday. The service was a very moving and thought provoking experience. The Anzac Spirit is our living legacy that should be honoured. This legacy is not only about mateship, self sacrifice, resourcefulness and dedication to duty but also courage, compassion, equality of opportunity, cooperation and determination. It is up to each and everyone of us to keep this legacy alive. These qualities are ones that we should model and make a reality in our society.

S.R.C. Report

The S.R.C. met for the second time on the 13th of this month to discuss current issues concerning the student body. The main ideas coming out of this meeting were thoughts for St. Peter’s Day, for all of you are who eagerly awaiting the news of what entertainment will take place this year we can assure you all of your interests will be covered. Some traditions will be kept for this years celebration such as the famous talent quest, the golf challenge, jumping castle, the amazing race and the much loved sponge throw. New ideas put forward have included a jelly eating contest, a St. Peter’s Market with stalls selling a range of items and a Wii Challenge. We look forward to this day and encourage all students to put forward any ideas to their year level forum leaders.

We also discussed the lunchtime sports program for the coming two terms. Year 7’s and 8’s are encouraged to participate in the dodgeball tournament this term to earn points for the McGuigan Sheild and if they are successful, win the perpetual shield for their house. The remaining year levels will have their lunchtime sports program will be running during Term 3.

Jesse Bice & Michelle Bowen
SPORTS CAPTAINS
For Christians, the Gallipoli campaign and the life of Christ both have a common thread – they both ended in disaster. Nor are the qualities of the Anzac Spirit too far removed from the qualities found in our own Christian Scriptures. However unlike the Gallipoli campaign, Christ’s death didn’t just end at the cross but rather his resurrection brings great hope to all people. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead showed that he had broken the power of sin and freed all humanity from the control of sinfulness. Each day we face trials and hardships. We know that as Christians we can draw upon our faith to give us strength to face up to these challenges and persevere when the going gets tough. We also know that we must support those who are going through these troubled times. We, as Christians, as believers in the resurrection, must be a sign of hope in our world.

Prayer:
God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bernadette Tolan
Religious Education Leader

Student Welfare News

The Student Welfare Department will once again offer a programme for students who have been affected by the death of a parent, a close relative or the loss of a parent through divorce. This programme is called SEASONS FOR GROWTH. The 15 students who participated last year formed strong bonds with each other and gained skills and confidence from the programme itself. Please read the letter below and return it to the school if you would like your son or daughter to be a part of this year’s group.

Dear Parents

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At St Peter’s College we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research that highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self esteem, managing feelings, problem solving, decision making, and effective communication and support networks.

Seasons for growth runs for 7 weeks and each weekly session is 40-50 minutes. The program includes with a “Celebration” session. Later in the year the group will have the opportunity to meet for a further session to build on their earlier learning.

Seasons for Growth will commence Week 5 of this term and will be facilitated by the school counsellor Nadia Picinali. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth we would encourage you to talk to him/her about this. Should he/she decide to participate please fill in the tear off slip below and return to the school by 3rd of May, 2010.

St Peter’s College is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those involved.

Nadia Picinali
Student Welfare

I______________________________give consent for my son/ daughter to attend the Seasons for Growth program. I have discussed this with him/her.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Student’s signature