NAPLAN Testing

This week students in years 3, 5, 7 & 9 across Australia will undergo the NAPLAN Testing program. The data will be assessed by the government and reflect how our students compare with the national standards for literacy and numeracy. There has been much discussion in the media about the strengths and weaknesses of the testing program and the subsequent MySchool site which features the data in various forms. As recent as last week the Government School sector was looking to boycott the tests over the use of the results in constructing a league table of schools from best performing to worst performing.

We are proud as a Catholic school that we educate the whole person, academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually and will continue to work with our students with these aims in mind. Testing which focuses on literacy and numeracy therefore only gives a limited view of the overall development of our students. Having said that, progress in literacy and numeracy is important for all of our students and feedback in these two areas is essential to me as both a teacher and parent.

As a parent who has two children undergoing the testing this year I look forward to gaining an understanding of how my children are going against the national standards for literacy and numeracy. It encourages me to be more involved in their education through discussion with their teachers and I believe that is a positive outcome for parents in general.

As a teacher I am always interested in how my students have improved under my teaching. Being able to assess what is working or not working in the classroom is important. The data we gain from the testing program will certainly be of benefit in the development of future teaching programs to assist these students as they progress through the higher year levels.

I see many valid uses for the NAPLAN data in working with individual teachers, families and students. The debate however centres on how we move whole school communities in the right direction with the use of this data. The public listing of underperforming schools in the media, leading to a shaming effect, does not achieve the result we are after and I believe is counterproductive in our aim to assist these schools to enhance their performance.

A more effective follow-up of under performing schools should take place via discussion, resourcing and dialogue within that community, mindful of the many factors which contribute to its current state. Treating each school community with dignity and respect is a starting point, followed by the provision of adequate resources and support that allows them to alter their practises and achieve best practice. The compilation of Naplan data into a league table of best and worst performing schools does not add to a process which is aimed at ensuring that our schools are performing at their best.

VCE Performance Evening

I look forward to the excellence which will be on display tonight at the VCE Performance Evening which begins at 7pm in the College Hall. The students and staff have worked diligently in preparation for this evening and I encourage members of our school community to show their support by their attendance. Limited tickets will be on sale at the front door: $5 single / $15 (family of 4).

Staffing Changes

Mrs Kate O’Hara leaves us this week to begin maternity leave and I wish her and Chris well as they await the arrival of their second child. I welcome her replacement to St Peter’s College Mrs. Louise Overberg. A name that will be familiar to some of our families as Louise was a teacher here from 1996 to 2001 before taking time off to raise her young family.

Mr Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is running a seminar on this important issue that has an impact on many young people. The Seminar outlines the nature and extent of the problem and gives parents some practical strategies to deal with the situation.

Details below:

**When:** 17th May

**Where:** Beletti Restaurant and Function Centre, 159 Lonsdale St, Dandenong.

**Time:** 9.30am to 3.30pm

**Cost:** $249

**Contact:** Critical Agendas, Phone number: 1800 638 012

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**Important Notice**

We would like to ask the cooperation of parents in an important manner. One of our St Peter’s students is receiving vital medical treatment with drugs which lower resistance to infection. This treatment puts them at serious risk if they develop chicken pox, measles, mumps or shingles.

We ask that parents inform the school IMMEDIATELY if their own child develops any of these viral infections. This will ensure that the student concerned is not exposed to the virus. Your support is appreciated.

Elizabeth Hanney
Deputy Principal

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**SIS INTERMEDIATE GIRLS NETBALL**

In the third round of the Intermediate Girls netball competition St Peters college travelled to the Sport For All Centre to compete against Flinders College. The game was tightly contested for three quarters with our girls having to overcome some clever tactics by the opposition. However, in the final quarter, Flinders got their nose in front and went on to win.

**Final Score:** St Peters 18 were defeated by Flinders 30.

**Best Players:** Cristin Daly and Sharnie Robinson

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**SIS INTERMEDIATE GIRLS SOCCER VS ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

As World Cup fever heightens in the countdown to South Africa, the eyes of the soccer world turned their attention to Beaconsfield last Friday for the Intermediate Girls away fixture vs St Francis Xavier. The focus before the game was not on the finer aspects of the game or the relative merits of a 3-5-2 system compared to the traditional 4-4-2, but instead whether we’d be stopping at “Maccas” on the way home!

The game started in the now familiar way ... 1-0 down after a few minutes (despite a vigorous warm up). The team then settled and defended excellently, Shannon White resembling Franz Beckenbauer at his best in sweeping up and snuffing out all threats to goal. With a slight downhill and wind advantage in the second half, the team began to stroke the ball around with style and finesse. It was only a matter of time before an equaliser came and it arrived courtesy of a Lauretta Lekakis thunderbolt from the edge of the area. With only minutes to go, Lekakis again pounced to strike the winner in a manner reminiscent of Harry Kewell in his heyday at the mighty Leeds United (who coincidently have begun the long road back to glory with promotion this weekend). The coach journey home was turned into an impromptu karaoke session as “meet me at the hotel room!” and numerous other tunes I failed to recognise were boomed out by the jubilant players (confirming the fact that I am indeed old!). Despite the moaning about the embargo on “Maccas” the team went home happy and I breathed a huge sigh of relief after gaining a victory at last! Well done and bring on the next fixture.

Mr Broadley
Coach

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**JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL - ROUND 2 VS. BEACONHILLS**

The girls put on another dominant display this round with our midfield taking control of the game from the first bounce. Whilst the game was scrappy at times due to the unfavourable conditions, the girls battled hard all game to continually push the ball forward and give us scoring opportunities.


St. Peters - 6.3.39 Beaconhills - 0.1.1

Gerard Brown
Coach

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**SIS JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS**

The junior table tennis team played the third round of the fixture here at St Peters College last Thursday. Despite some terrific play from all of our team members, the squad narrowly lost to Casey. Great improvement has been shown by all of the team and they should be congratulated on their performances.

**Best Players:** Abhi Singh, Dillon Harridge, Peter Boland and Nidhin Benny

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**Sporting News**
**JUNIOR BOYS BASKETBALL**

The Junior Boys basketball team travelled to Beaconhills last Thursday, both teams were undefeated and a win would virtually secure the pennant for either team. We started off very well shooting out to a 12 – 4 lead with some good ball movement and shooting. Eventually the bigger bodies of Beaconhills began to cut away at the margin and take the lead. The boys gave their best efforts but fell short in the end losing by 9 points. Our next game is against St Francis Xavier.

Justin De Goldi
Sports Co-Ordinator

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**Congratulations**

Congratulations to the Yr 11 Media class who have made it to the semi-finals of the RACV “Transmission” competition for 2010. All four groups from the class were accepted, and the judges have commended the students original concepts and detail in their entries. The following students will now take part in a one day semi-finalist workshop at Etihad stadium on 25th May, to further develop their ideas for final submission; Brittany Hay, Jasmine Mc Dermott, Kristina Kraskov, Madelaine Byrne, Talia Steele, Connie Georgiadis, Joel Walker, Sam Qualizza, Adonis Bitanga, Jake Barber, Chris Brooking, Dane Francis.

Well done and good Luck for the rest of the competition!

Ms Goss
Media Teacher

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**Career news**

- Herald Sun Careers Expo, Fri 30 July-Sun 1 Aug, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre.

**COMPUTER GAMES BOOT CAMP!** Year 9-12’s have the opportunity to attend a computer games boot camp, a seven day event on everything connected to computer games. Interested in becoming a professional gamer, building and designing games or simply playing games? Then this is for you. When: 3-9 July; Where: Monash Uni, Clayton; Cost: Free; Info/regn: [www.infotech.monash.edu.au/promotion/games-boot-camp/](http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/promotion/games-boot-camp/).

**ADF GAP YEAR** – The Australian Defence Force Gap Year program provides an opportunity for young people who have finished Year 12 in the previous two years to experience continuous military training and lifestyle before going on to study. You must apply online for the Gap Year and applications are open from 1 May to 31 May 2010. Applications are for Navy or Army only. Applications are based on merit. Information and applications: [www.defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear).

**UMAT** – For most of the degree courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Oral Health, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy, students are required to complete the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) as part of these extra requirements. The UMAT is a 2.5 hour multiple-choice test designed to assess the acquisition of skills in critical thinking and problem solving, understanding people and abstract non-verbal reasoning – all skills which are considered important in the practice of professions in the health sciences.

The UMAT is a compulsory aspect of selection into these courses and failure to sit the exam will result in an inability to be selected into the courses, regardless of ATAR/ENTER score.

Students must register by 9 June; Test date: 28 July 2010; see [http://umat.acer.edu.au](http://umat.acer.edu.au)

**VCE SUMMARY LECTURES** – Attend a free VCE revision lecture to help you prepare for exams and assessments. Key topic areas will be explained, paying attention to practical and theoretical elements. **Subjects to be covered:** Accounting (29 May), Biology (22 May), Chemistry (22 May), Physics (23 May), Psychology (29 May); Where: **Victoria Uni** campuses; Info: Renata Sponton, ph 9919 4229, Renata.sponton@vu.edu.au

**As you would know, the Canonisation of Mary Mackillop will be occurring in October. Plans are already being made both in our school and our diocese. It was wonderful to be able to announce that the Catholic Education Office, along with the College will be sponsoring two students to attend the Canonisation of Mary Mackillop in Rome. This is a once in a life time event. It will be a magnificent celebration for a magnificent woman! This pilgrimage is being offered to the students in Years 10 an 11 as there is an expectation that the recipients will come back to the College and help to raise the profile of our first saint in the College community. All applications are due by Monday, 17th May. Application forms are available from Student Reception, Homeroom teachers and Year level Co-Ordinators. There will also be opportunities for the College community to celebrate the canonisation of Mary Mackillop closer to the date.**

Currently our Year 7 students are undertaking a unit on the Kingdom of God. This unit includes a profile of Jesus, his mission and how his mission is lived out in the world today. The students will be researching a “Kingdom Person”, ie someone who made a difference in our world by living out the mission of Jesus. This unit comes at a time when we are getting ready to celebrate the canonisation of Mary Mackillop – a person who lived out the mission of Jesus by living out the Gospel values and making them a reality. Students have the opportunity to research some amazing people in our world and how they make a difference in our world. We hope these people are an inspiration to our students to make a difference in our community.
For the start of Catholic Education Week, our Bishop invited representatives from all schools in the diocese to celebrate Mass together for this wonderful event. St Peter’s College was represented by six students – three from the Social Justice Committee and three students from the S.R.C. It was a great event with all the schools of the diocese represented. Bishop Prowse welcomed us to the Cathedral and then we celebrated Mass together. Afterwards he shared a sausage with the students. The theme for this year was ‘Called to bring Hope – Year of the Priest’. During the mass, Bishop Prowse encouraged us to be people of hope, people who can make a difference in our world. Please check the College Website for photographs.

Bernadette Tolan
Religious Education Leader.

Prayer: (in the spirit of St John Vianney we pray for our priests)
You came from among us to be, for us, one who serves. We thank you for ministering Christ to us and helping us minister Christ to each other.
We are grateful for the many gifts you bring to our community:
For drawing us together in worship,
For visiting our homes
For comforting us in sickness,
For showing us compassion,
For blessing marriages,
For baptising children,
For confirming us in our calling,
For supporting those who are sad,
For helping us to grow in faith,
For encouraging us to take the initiative
For helping the whole community realise God’s presence among us.
God our Father, we ask You to bless our priests,
And confirm them in your calling.
Give them the gifts they need to respond with generosity and a joyful heart.
We offer this prayer to our priest who is our brother and friend.
Amen.

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

MUM’S MOVIE NIGHT: As part of Mother’s Day celebrations we would like to honour all Mums in our community with a free movie night. A screening of ‘Something the Lord Made’ followed by a fancy supper and other treats will be held on Friday 14th May at 7.30pm in St. Agatha’s Hall. If you would like to attend please place your name on the clipboard in the Church foyer & look forward to a great night out!

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL’S OPEN DAYS:
St. Agatha’s: Wednesday 19th May 9.30am – 10.30am, Thursday 25th May 5.00pm – 6.00pm & Thursday 3rd June 9.30am – 10.30am.
St. Therese’s: Tuesday 25th May 9.00am – 11.00am.
2011 Enrolment forms will be available on these days. For further information contact the school. St. Agatha’s on 5996 2724 or St. Therese’s on 5996 7525.

RAISE THE ROOF: A special Night Of Mystery & Murder is happening on Friday the 21st May in the Parish Hall starts 7.30pm sharp. “Nanna says if you are not on time you will not be admitted”. We would appreciate pre-purchase of tickets. Adults $12.50 or $20.00 for a couple. Tickets on sale after all Masses next weekend.

COME TO KNOW JESUS IN THE 4 GOSPELS: If you are looking for something to nurture your faith after the Parish Mission this is for you: a beautiful course to help you encounter our Risen Lord by looking at each of the four Gospels, who wrote them & why, and their vision of Jesus. Fri (night) 28th May – Sun 30th May. See brochures in foyer for more details or contact John 0417 558 650 for more info.

DIOCESAN MARIAN CONFERENCE will be held St Michael’s Church, Traralgon commencing at 9.00 – 3.30pm on Saturday May 22nd. Bishop Prowse will be the presenting Guest Speaker and the day will also include: Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Benediction, Confessions, Procession of Our Lady’s Statue and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Eng. Pat Crozier 0400 218 417.

World Youth Day 2011 Madrid information sessions for potential pilgrims will be held at St. Michael’s Parish Hall Berwick, 7pm Monday 17th May. Enquires: Youth Ministry Office a call on 5126 1063.

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE