Funding Issues for Catholic Education

With the announcement of the Federal Election in August it is important to keep our community informed of the issues effecting Catholic Education as they unfold over this election period.

As this point in time the issue concerning Catholic Schools is that our funding from the Federal Government should not decline following the Gonski review of Federal funding for all schools set for 2013. In the lead up to this election the Coalition through education spokesperson Christopher Pyne has confirmed that a Coalition Government would seek to ‘enhance’ funding arrangements for Catholic Schools from 2013. The Labor Party through then Education Minister Julia Gillard has stated that ‘no school will lose a dollar of funding (from 2013) in the sense that their school budget per student will not reduce in dollar terms’.

What is not clear from this statement is whether the Labor Party will commit to covering the annual increase in CPI which pushes the costs of schooling up in each year, which if not covered by subsequent increases in grants will lead to serious financial concern for some Catholic Schools including our own.

Bishop Greg O’Kelly on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will continue to seek clarification on this issue for all Catholic schools from the new Minister for Education Simon Crean. He will also continue to press for future certainty of our funding so that the government commits to the annual indexation of our funds in the same way that funds are indexed in Government schools.

In coming newsletters I will continue to keep you informed of the issues that effect Catholic education as they arise in this Federal Election period and the ways in which parents may express support for catholic Education to achieve a better outcome for our students.

Futures Evening

All students in year 8-12 and their parents are invited to attend the respective nights for Middle School Subject Selection and Futures Evening next Monday and Wednesday. It is an important period for our students and one where they begin to take ownership of their studies and future directions in life. I encourage them to approach this time with an open mind and a willingness to ask questions and research all options. Teacher assistance and career guidance will be available on these two nights so that students can make informed decisions about their future career path.

Welcome Assembly

School Captains Glen Salter and Elouise Johnson present school badges to the leaders of the Japanese exchange Mr. Miyake and Mr. Kawamata at the welcome assembly last Friday. (See website for more pictures)
Term 3 has begun in earnest and staff have commented on how positively students have returned to school and commenced Semester 2. At the beginning of a new semester it is timely to reflect on our work to date. We can perhaps also ask of ourselves…what else needs to be done in order to give of my best and in order to get the best out of myself for the remainder of the year? It seems that in order to achieve our best, we need, as Mother Teresa suggests, to keep “putting in”. If we are endeavouring to perform well, if we are working to strengthen our faith, if we are seeking to maintain good relationships…..we have to keep putting oil into those lamps.

At the Staff Professional Learning Day last week, our guest speaker Jo Lange shared two quotes which underpin her work and which formed the basis of her message to staff. They may speak equally to parents so I include them here for your own reflection.

We all need to be validated and regarded, feel personal power, status and control, have interpersonal relationships and feel security, safety and trust. (Alfred Adler)

If students can’t get these needs met in positive ways, they may constantly seek attention from others, set up power struggles with teachers, be helpless so that adults spend a lot of time ‘rescuing’ them or withdraw or lash out to protect themselves and keep others away. (Rudolf Dreikurs)

As learners and as maturing young adults, students can learn to reflect on their needs and their behaviours. As adults we can reflect on the needs of our young people. As teachers we are reminded to meet those needs of growing independence rather than ignoring or resisting them or perhaps worse, rescuing students to the extent that they develop a helplessness which prevents full maturity into adulthood.

Are you in earnest? Then seize this very minute.
What you can do, or dream you can, begin it;
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it;
Only engage and then the mind grows heated;
Begin, and then the work will be completed.

Elizabeth Hanney
Deputy Principal

Japan Study Tour 2010
Pre-departure Meeting
Parents and students are invited to a pre-departure meeting on Tuesday 27th July, at 3.30 in Library Seminar Room 1.
Miss Faulkner

St Peter’s Day
Annually on June 22nd, we as a College celebrate our patron saint on St Peter’s Day. And this year was no exception. St Peter’s Day 2010 was a great day that was enjoyed by all. The encouragement and enthusiasm everyone showed on the day was outstanding and largely contributed to the positive atmosphere.

The day began with a reflective mass which was followed by several fun – filled hours. The activities included a jumping castle, bucking bull, jelly eating contest, sponge throw, golf competition, student race, face painting, a down ball and Band Hero competition, the Amazing Race and a balloon bursting contest. There was also a bake sale, hot chocolate stand, the sale of show bags and the Talent Quest which showcased the wide variety of talent we have at St Peter’s.

A big thankyou goes out to the SRC and all the students and teachers alike who played a large role in the organisation of the day. As well as the Parents and Friends Association who kindly provided a barbeque for lunch.

St Peter’s Day raised a massive $1082.50 for the Bishop’s Family Foundation. This charity supports family’s in our diocese that are doing it tough.

Well done to everyone!

Kaitlyn Walker

SPORTING NEWS
ST.PETER’S GOLF DAY
The annual hole-in-one golf competition was played in perfect conditions, on a short course with a high degree of difficulty. Even the designers, John and Alex, could not master this tricky hole.

Jeorja Johnson flew the flag for the girls of St Peter’s College, and Mr Hogan swung hard at the ball, but found that the soft ground did not suit his style. Will Armstead was the most persistent golfer on the day, but eventually, Kevin Noble (Year 10) put the ball very close to the hole to win the first prize, just ahead of Brayden Roscoe (Year 8) and Jake Harrington (Year 8).

Thanks must go to Lachy Hayes for his help in running this event, and to Adam Hanger and Mr Nelson for their contributions.

Mr Grant
EQUESTRIAN NEWS

Congratulations to Lauren Halstead (Yr10) who once again achieved fantastic results at a recent equestrian event. Lauren competed in the M3DE Fundraiser Event, where she finished 2nd in the Interschool category, and 6th Overall (she was competing against adults). This has now qualified Lauren to compete in the Sydney Nationals in September. We wish Lauren all the best!

Justin De Goldi
Sports Co-Ordinator

Career News

Reminders….

- Herald Sun Careers Expo, Fri 30 July - Sun 1 Aug, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; www.careerexpo.com.au
- UMAT Test date: 28 July 2010; http://umat.acer.edu.au
- Civil engineering careers seminar; 4 Aug, SKM Auditorium, 590 Orrong Rd, Armadale; Register: CSBaker@skm.com.au (numbers attending/school name); Info: Sandra, 9321 1725.
- Aerospace/aviation careers; 5 Aug; RMIT Storey Hall, 336-348 Swanston St, Melbourne; Information: www.aerospacestudents.org/aerospaceindustrynight.htm

OPEN DAYS

- Sat 31 July – Monash University (Berwick, Gippsland and Peninsula campuses)
- Sun 1 Aug – Monash Uni (Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville campuses)
- Sun 8 Aug – Deakin Uni (Geelong); RMIT Uni & TAFE; Gordon TAFE; Victoria Uni & TAFE (Footscray); William Angliss TAFE
- Sun 15 Aug – Australian Catholic Uni (ACU) (Melbourne); Deakin Uni (Warrnambool); La Trobe Uni (Bendigo); Swinburne Uni & TAFE; Melbourne Uni; Sunraysia TAFE (Swan Hill)
- Sat 21 Aug – Holmesglen TAFE
- Sun 22 Aug – Box Hill TAFE; Deakin Uni (Melbourne); La Trobe Uni (Albury/Wodonga)
- Sun 29 Aug - ACU (Ballarat); Ballarat Uni; La Trobe Uni (Bundoora)

HOW CAN I GET THE MOST OUT OF OPEN DAYS? Try the following:

- Allow sufficient time for your visit; two hours or so would be wise.
- Speak to staff about courses that interest you. Write your questions beforehand.

- Get a student perspective - speak to students studying courses that interest you.
- Collect information/brochures.
- Ask about industry placements and work experience in courses that interest you.
- Ask about international study opportunities with your course.
- Consider transport issues; is the campus you are considering accessible from where you live?
- Check the environment where you will study; would you be happy there for three/four years?
- Consider the facilities/clubs offered for your course at your preferred institution.
- Consider visiting a country campus, especially if you think you won’t obtain a high enoughATAR for a metropolitan campus. ATAR’s for country universities are generally lower. They often offer more personal assistance, accommodation, and a lifestyle which will suit some students.
- Be aware that if you plan to apply for a course involving an interview/folio presentation as part of the selection process (eg design courses) you may well be asked what you found of interest about the course at Open Day. Attendance is therefore vital.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS:

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY – YR 10’S - Get a head-start on planning for 2013! This is a great opportunity for students/parents to get info. and advice about VCE subject selection, VTAC procedures, and applying for selection to La Trobe courses. When: 6-8pm, Wed 21 July; Where: West Lecture Theatres; Info/registration: www.latrobe.edu.au/year10 or 1300 135 045. Time for questions, with drinks and nibbles.

VCE PARENTS’ INFORMATION EVENINGS – La Trobe Uni has an evening to demystify the terminology and procedures of VCE, VTAC and entry to university – especially for parents. When: 6pm, Wed 28 July; Info/reg’n: www.latrobe.edu.au/parents.

DEAKIN – an evening for parents to find out about applying for university and to talk with staff and current students. When: 7-8.30pm, Wed 28 July; Where: Melbourne campus, 221 Burwood Hwy, Burwood Info: www.deakin.edu.au/parents

ART AND DESIGN WEEK AT MONASH - With a range of events/activities on offer, the week provides an opportunity to experience the lively, culturally stimulating creative environment at Monash (Caulfield). There will be information sessions, workshops, career pathway seminars and other interactive events. When: 2-6 August; Where: Monash University Faculty of Art and Design; Info: www.monashadweek.com.au.

Shannon Maher
Careers Coordinator
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To Sit At The Lord’s Feet

At the School Assembly today we welcomed exchange students and staff from France and Japan, handed over a large cheque (monetarily and literally) to the Bishop’s Family Foundation and spoke about a fundraising event for Ozanam House. There was a wonderful spirit at the assembly which Mr Hogan acknowledged and I said to the students to never be afraid to step out in faith to help those in need.

Not only did the assembly and the actions which were acknowledged speak to me about the courage and faithfulness of our patron St Peter, but also the Gospel of this Sunday the 18th of July. The Gospel presents us with the two sisters, Martha and Mary. When Jesus visits the house, Mary wants to sit at his feet to listen to him and learn from him. Martha on the other hand was much too busy with housework, cooking and the like to stop. When Martha complains to Jesus about this, he tells Martha that her sister has chosen the better part.

We also have that same choice. There are opportunities to spend time with the Lord just as there are many excuses why it is not possible. As parents of students at St Peter’s we have made the decision to place our children in a community of faith where they will be exposed to Catholic teachings as a grounding for life. Much of what is learned about life as a child grows comes from their family, particularly parents.

A powerful message is given about spending time with God if we ourselves are too busy to ever pray with the family or go to mass on a Sunday. That message is reinforced if we only acknowledge speak to me about the courage and faithfulness of our patron St Peter, but also the Gospel of this Sunday the 18th of July. The Gospel presents us with the two sisters, Martha and Mary. When Jesus visits the house, Mary wants to sit at his feet to listen to him and learn from him. Martha on the other hand was much too busy with housework, cooking and the like to stop. When Martha complains to Jesus about this, he tells Martha that her sister has chosen the better part.

When Martha is complaining to Jesus about how busy she is, he replies "Martha, Martha you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one." So it is for us, we are sometimes so busy that we are no longer aware that Jesus gives us an open invitation to come aside and sit with him.

So if, as the day goes on, we forget you, do not forget us O God.

Amen

Deacon Tony Aspinall
College Chaplain

St. Agatha’s News

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN MADRID: If Parishioners are planning to attend WYD in Madrid please leave your details with Sr. Mercy so that information can be passed onto you.

ROCK & ROLL DANCE: The Raise the Roof Committee have organized a fundraising Rock n’ Roll Dance to be held at St. Peter’s College Hall, Navarre Drive Cranbourne, on Sunday 24th July at 7.30pm. Tickets: $15 single, $25 double.

FAMILY TICKET 2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN $30, ADDITIONAL CHILDREN $2.50 & PENSIONERS $12.50.

BYO nibbles & Drinks. Coffee & Tea provided. Tickets on sale after all weekend Masses. Don’t wait, book a table for you and your friends to come and have a great time. Games, raffles, assorted prizes for best costumes, dancers and any other delights you bring that are truly Rock ‘N’ Roll.

Also we need lots of helpers to set up the hall on Sunday 24th July between 10am-12 and helpers to clear up on Sunday 25th July from 10am-12.

The more who come the less to be done & the quicker it’s done. Please help us. Thank you.

R.C.I.A. PROGRAM – CATECHUMENATE 2010-2011: If you’ve been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic. Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? An inquiry night will be held for those who may be considering becoming a Catholic on Thursday 5th August at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

All welcome! For further information contact the Parish Office on 5996 1985 or Tina on 5996 3139.

TRANSPORT REQUIRED: A parishioner is looking for a lift to Sunday morning Mass, 9am or 10.30am, from Botanic Gardens Retirement Village, 41 Craig Road Cranbourne. If you can assist please contact the Parish Office on 5996 1985.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Sr. Mercy is seeking an assistant to help her with music ministry in the Parish. The person would need a love of the liturgy and of liturgical music. Please contact Sr. Mercy on 5996 1985.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION: Children are preparing for First Communion. Please pray for the children and their families during this special time. Contact Sr. Anna at the Parish Office between 3pm-5pm during the week or on 5996 1985.

ROSAry FOR THE BISHOP: Everyone is invited to join Rosary for the Bishop, a program organizing Catholics to pray the rosary for their Bishops. Catholics all over the world are praying for their shepherds through Rosary for the Bishop: visit www.rosaryforthebishop.org/join to sign up today!

Greg Nelson

ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE