FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WINTER SLEEPOUT

On Friday Night over 40 students and 12 teaching staff slept in the school hall as part of the winter Sleepout campaign conducted by Mission Australia. With over 105,000 homeless people in Australia the Sleepout not only helps to raise funds for homeless services but also draws attention to the issues in society that create the circumstances where people have no option but to live on the streets.

This issue is unlikely to have focus during this election period as we are talking about a group that is on the very fringe of society with very little power to represent themselves. Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth) states “As society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours but does not make us brothers.” Fraternity, he says, “originates in a transcendent vocation from God the father, who loved us first, teaching us through the Son what fraternal charity is”.

Our belief that all are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect because we are made in the image of God provides strong motivation to ensure that in our society these people are not forgotten.

* Students at the Winter Sleepout – more photos on Website.

TEACHER TRAINING CONFERENCE - SOLOMON ISLANDS

Year 12 Co-ordinator Dr Mark Barnes will travel with the Catholic Education Office to Honiara in the Solomon Islands in September this year to conduct a teacher training conference. The conference will be prepared by four staff members from the Diocese of Sale and will focus on training teachers in best practice. It is a great opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise which will provide great support to a country that lacks the financial resources of a country like our own. Over the course of this term we will look to collect materials that will assist the schools that Dr Barnes will work with in Honiara.

ELECTION NEWS

Both parties have made commitments to extend the Education Tax rebate for families in receipt of Family tax Benefit A. The Government’s plan extends the rebate to include school uniforms. The opposition’s plan increases the rebate and extends it to include school fees and other school related expenses. While these are potentially important initiatives to assist parents financially the most significant issue in the election for catholic education is continued fair and certain funding.

We have approached both the Government and Opposition to seek understanding that funding for Catholic Schools will not be reduced after 2012. Victorian Catholic Schools already receive 37% less government funding than Victorian government schools and run on only 93% of the operating budget per student in a Government School. We do not understand why the Government would want to reduce funding over time.

Responses from the Government and the Opposition are expected shortly.

This week I have placed on our school website a list of all candidates contesting the Federal Election along with a draft letter which can be sent to those candidates outlining our concerns for Catholic Education in this Federal Election.

Mr Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
**IMPORTANT DATES**

I wish to draw to your attention a number of significant dates in Term 3, involving all families:

**PRODUCTION WEEK**: Week beginning Monday 23 August (see newsletter for details)

**ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**: Tuesday 31 August – Compulsory day for all students

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**: Thursday 9 September (4.00 – 8.30pm)
Friday 10 September (9.00 – 12.30pm) Student Free Day

**FINAL DAY TERM 3**: Friday 17 September

Please note these dates. Additional information with respect to these events will be outlined in newsletters over the coming weeks.

Elizabeth Hanney  
Deputy Principal

**SUBJECT SELECTION**

Last week saw a large numbers of parents and students attending our two Subject Selection evenings to prepare them fully for selecting subjects for 2011. Parents and students are reminded of the due dates for the handing in of subject selection forms.

- Yr 8 into Yr 9 - Friday 6th August  
- Yr 9 into Yr 10 - Friday 6th August  
- Yr 10 into Yr 11 - Wednesday 11th August  
- Yr 11 into Yr 12 - Wednesday 11th August

The 2011 timetable construction will commence at the close of subject selection. Only those forms handed in on time will be considered during the process of construction.

James Roberts  
Director of Learning

**St. Peter’s College 2010**

**Sporting Hall of Fame**

A Call For Nominations!

This year in THE ROCK we will be show-casing the sporting achievements of St Peter’s students outside of school.

Nominate yourself or your champion friend.

Contact Lianna Jones 9D or Mr Stretch MC1 during homeroom. Nominations close 16th August.

**YR 7 BULLYING PRESENTATION**

On Friday, Yr 7 students witnessed a presentation from Brainstorm Productions called “The Hurting Game”. This play is about the hurtful games students can play to give themselves a false sense of power and belonging.

Here are some thoughts from Nathan Martens, Yr 7 SRC Representative;

“Last Friday the Year 7’s saw a production called “The Hurting Game”. It was all about how people get influenced and hurt through social networking and cyber bullying. It was a fantastic play and it taught us that what can happen in life can have an effect later on”

Chris O’Hara  
Yr 7 CoOrdinator

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**“The Time Machine” – On-Line Ticketing**

This year tickets for all performances of the College Production “The Time Machine” will be available through an on-line ticketing system. Tickets can be purchased by credit card through a secure site by either clicking on the link which will be located on our website under “Latest News” (www.stpeters.vic.edu.au) or by going directly to the Monash University ticketing site www.monash.edu.au/monart. The advantages of this system are that parents can choose their own seats with an approximate view to the stage and tickets can be printed out immediately at home. Ticket prices are $18 for adults and $12 for children/concession.

Please note that tickets will not be available for direct purchase through the College Office. If any clarification of this process is required please contact the College Office on 5996 6733.

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**Bullying Survey Findings**

Last term each student in the College was surveyed during the Anti Bullying Sessions in order to determine their thoughts on bullying.

Generally speaking, the results of the surveys painted St Peter’s College in a positive light in terms of the stance we take as a College against bullying and harassment. Some of the key findings were:

- Students generally feel that students treat each other with respect
- Students feel that St Peter’s is a friendly and caring school
- Students generally feel safe at St Peter’s
- Students feel confident that teachers at St Peter’s would act on a report by a student of bullying

Of concern though, was the fact that students who had been bullied or who had witnessed another student being bullied were more likely to ignore it than report it to a parent, teacher or Year Level Coordinator. This is not what we want students to be doing. As a College, the best way we can deal with bullying is to report on it and address the issue front on.

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**Uniform Reminders**

- Students are reminded that when wearing Sports/PE Uniform to and from school, that they are not permitted to wear garments such as “hoodies” or long sleeve T-shirts underneath the College T-Shirt. Students may wear the College Rugby top or Tracksuit top to keep themselves warm.
- Ties/Top Buttons: too many students are still not wearing their ties properly. Top buttons must be done up and ties should look presentable and be pulled up to the top button.

Students are reminded that they need to be in Homeroom at 8.45 each morning.

This is an important time for starting off the school day on a good note.

Starting the morning with a prayer and then any relevant notices/messages is a vital part of the school day.

The consequence for being late for homeroom on three occasions without a note is an afterschool detention.

Similarly, students are reminded to be punctual to each class.

Mr Banks  
Deputy Principal
Year 12 Boys / Girls Seminars

On Thursday 29th July the Year 12 students had a specific boy’s seminar run by myself and Mr Banks and a Girl’s seminar run by Mrs Carter, Mrs Picinali and Mrs Hanney here at the College. The Boy’s Seminar covered areas such as the importance of stepping back and thinking, maturity, avoiding conflict, your not invincible, support of your mates and respect of women. The Girl’s Seminar discussed issues relating to stress, staying positive, getting enough rest, time management, being yourself and dealing with boys. Working specifically with the same gender was very beneficial to get these important messages across and we hope they stay with the students not just this month or this year but many years to come. I thank the above mentioned staff for running the seminars along with great support from Miss Pereira, Mr Stretch and Mr Gyulavary.

Mark Barnes
Year 12 Coordinator

Sporting News

BRANDON MANASE (9E) - Brandon recently competed in the National U/15 Rugby Championships in Canberra. He was the Vice – Captain of a successful team that won the Championships, beating WA, NT & SA. Brandon was also voted MVP & selected in the Australian Merit Squad. He was then selected as part of a Melbourne Storm U/18 Training Squad. A great achievement by a popular & extremely gifted sportsman.

Shaun Parton - Year 9 Co-ordinator

SOCCER - The sacking of Diego Maradonna in Argentina sat fresh in the mind as a stark reminder of the perils of Soccer coaching, as the Intermediate Boys kicked off with a home match against John Paul. With a plethora of Midfielders and Strikers impressing at the trials, an exciting looking 3-5-2 formation was adopted. The game began well with Davies pouncing on a mistake by the opposition keeper to open the scoring, while at the other end the defensive trio of Schruers, Pap and Johnson looked solid in front of the impressive Beckham in goal. The best move of the match soon followed as Lekakis won the ball in midfield before spraying a diagonal ball to the speedy Methakul. His inch perfect low cross was met with a crisp first time finish by Prosser to double the advantage and see the team hold a 2-0 half time lead. Playing against a strong wind after the interval was always going to be testing and two early goals conceded, together with an injury to defensive enforcer Pap did not bode well. It was in this moment of need that referee Mr Parton delivered a lifeline – a penalty for a foul by the opposite side. However, no one was concerned when briefing the players before the game there appeared to be little knowledge of the positions. However, we strode onto the field and things started well when our Captain for game 1, Bianca Robinson, won the toss. The St. Peter’s battled hard all day and with a rotation policy for the players off the bench we thought we would have fresh legs to outrun them. Padua had some key players who were doing all the damage on the scoreboard. Our captain Bianca Robinson was presenting well up forward and Zo Clarke was inspirational on the last line of defence. Better players also included Elizabeth Tomkins, Kristy Hinkley, Melissa Oskan, Jenna Edwards.

The end result was unfortunately Padua 10.16 76 defeating St. Peter’s 0.3 3 behinds.

However, the spirit of the girls was never beaten on the day and we look forward to taking on St. Francis Xavier this Thursday.

Chris O’Hara – Senior Girls Football Coach

NETBALL - On Monday 26th July, St Peters sent 4 teams to the Victorian Schools Netball Championships at the State Netball and Hockey Centre. All teams competed with great sportsmanship, across a long day, and some fine results were produced.

Junior Girls: Played 8 games, and came away with 3 wins to finish 5th out of 9 teams.

Intermediate Girls: Had a massive day, competing in 10 games, coming away with 5 wins and 1 draw to finish a respectable 5th out of 11 teams.

Senior Girls: Had a win and a draw in 6 games. Losing several games by only a goal or two. Finished 5th out of 7 teams.

Senior Boys: Won 7 games and had 1 draw to finish top of the table and advance to the Finals Day of the 2010 Netball Victoria Schools Championships. A fantastic result!

Well done to everyone who competed, and we wish our Senior Boys team best of luck on Finals Day.

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS FOOTBALL - The Intermediate Girls Football team had their first ever hit out last Friday against Padua here at St Peters. The girls were full of enthusiasm and positive spirits heading into the game, and it payed off in the first quarter with the girls kicking the first 2 goals of the game. As the game continued, the wind picked up, making the car park end of the oval the scoring end. The girls were laying some good tackles, but had trouble kicking against the wind and Padua were able to kick some lucky goals which saw them take the lead. In the last quarter the game was still in the balance, with both teams kicking a goal each. With 10 seconds to go we had a shot on goal, but the ball which has bounced straight all day, took a turn at went through for a behind, which left us one point behind when the siren sounded. Padua 4-4-28 def St Peters 4-3-27

Goals: K.Wakartschuk 2, T.Armstrong 1, E.Neeson 1
Best Players: K. Wakartschuk, K. Pope, T. Rackham, T. Banks

Justin De Goldi – Sports Co-ordinator

SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL - On Thursday the Senior Girls Football team played Padua Mornington at St. Peter’s. Enthusiasm was high and there were expectations from the girls of how they were going to perform. The coach became a little concerned when briefing the players before the game there appeared to be little knowledge of the positions. However, we strode onto the field and things started well when our Captain for game 1, Bianca Robinson, won the toss. The St. Peter’s battled hard all day and with a rotation policy for the players off the bench we thought we would have fresh legs to outrun them. Padua had some key players who were doing all the damage and were hurting us on the scoreboard. Our captain Bianca Robinson was presenting well up forward and Zo Clarke was inspirational on the last line of defence. Better players also included Elizabeth Tomkins, Kristy Hinkley, Melissa Oskan, Jenna Edwards.

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Chris O’Hara – Senior Girls Football Coach
The liturgical and outreach life of the College are in full swing at the moment. There have been liturgies focussing on the great figures of Abraham and Moses for year seven students. In these liturgies we celebrate the obedience and faithfulness to God that these men showed. We also pray for the strength to follow their example. The year eight students have been looking at the readiness of our loving God to forgive us our sins and failings if we will only turn to him and acknowledge our need for that love and forgiveness.

At the same time we have been organising a “Winter Sleepout” in the hall to raise money for St Vincent De Paul to be used for those who literally live and sleep on the streets.

Our year twelve students have just completed a seminar challenging the values of the day where there are in fact very few values. The prevailing thinking seems to be is “The only thing that matters is that YOU enjoy Yourself” If other people don’t enjoy what you do “Stiff”. It is a lot harder for young people today to understand about respect for themselves and others when they are continually given the message of “Enjoy!” “Just do it!” and so on.

This relentless focus on the importance of the individual who has the “Right” to the “Ultimate High” can completely prevent any hope of an awareness of the legitimate rights of others. Such pursuits also rule out any notion of prayerful examination of the inner self or any attempt to commune with the Spirit of God through whom we live.

As parents it is important that we pull back from the rat race and noise of the day so that we nourish our souls in order to help our children understand that this is something that we value. As I have said before, parents have such a unique place in the life of a child and a unique opportunity to guide them to a knowledge of God, this opportunity should not be overlooked.

The College is looking for ways to develop a better understanding of our patron, St Peter. He is a great saint for parents to embrace. Peter never claimed perfection, he was not a great scholar and he sometimes felt he could not get his message across. I know I can relate to all those things as a parent. However, Peter did achieve some great things by trusting in God through his mentor and guide Jesus. We are continually working to find ways of showing the deep, fundamental relationship between the Gospels and daily life. Once again, this can be done so well amidst the realities of life in the family. Does the gift of faith bring hope and joy to our homes? It can if we want it to, it can if we let it.

Reflection
First Letter of Peter, 1:8-12

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving towards one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

For:

“Whoever would love life
And see good days
Must keep the tongue from evil
And the lips from speaking deceit,
Must turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
And his ears turned to their prayer,
But the face of the Lord is against evildoers.”

Deacon Tony Aspinall
College Chaplain

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**St. Agatha’s News**

**R.C.I.A. INQUIRY NIGHT:** We urge all Parishioners to invite non-Catholics to the inquiry night on Thursday 5th August at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome! For more information please call the Parish Office on 5996 1985 or Tina on 5996 3139.

**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.

**CRANBOURNE EAST PARISH:** We would like an architect to prepare a master plan for the new Cranbourne East Primary School and Parish in the light of the charisma of the Saint under whose patronage the new parish would belong. The name will be chosen in consultation with the new Parish School development committees and the Parish Pastoral Council. From here a recommendation will be made to Bishop Prowse. Parish groups and individuals are invited to submit to the Parish Office the name of the Saint they would like to see chosen along with a paragraph or two on why they have chosen their particular Saint.

**ROSARY FOR THE BISHOP:** Everyone is invited to join Rosary for the Bishop, a program organizing Catholics to pray the rosary for our 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!

**BOOK YOUR SEAT TO WYD2011:** Bishop Prowse would like to invite YOU to join the Diocesan pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain 16-21 August 2011. To book go to www.wydtours.com, click on “WYD pilgrimages” and follow the links to the Diocese of Sale page. WYD Pilgrim Boot Camp begins 4pm Sunday August 1st, at St.Patrick’s Pakenham and will include formation, reflection, Mass and share dinner together. Attending is an ESSENTIAL element of being part of the WYD2011 pilgrimage and ALL pilgrims (those registered & those planning to register) are expected to attend. If, under extraordinary circumstances, you are unable to attend this Pilgrim Boot Camp session please let Jess (jessd@sale.catholic.org.au) know ASAP.

**WE WARMLY WELCOME** Sr. Theresa Naznan the Superior General of the Sisters of the Nativity to our Parish. Sr. Theresa will be with us for four weeks. We pray she will enjoy her time with us in Australia.

**CALL OF GUADALUPE – THE MUSICAL** will be held on the weekend of the 11th, 12th September at the Cardinia Cultural Centre Pakenham. Tickets on sale now! See notice board for further details or contact 9561 3784 for tickets.

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Greg Nelson

ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE