FROM THE PRINCIPAL

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In a newsletter earlier this year I wrote that excellence is not a skill but an attitude. Whatever achievements we aim for in life, whether it be in sport, business, artistic or academic fields it is often the attitude that we bring to the task that determines our success. As a school we encourage all of our students to start the journey and strive for excellence, it is not an easy journey. More and more I have come to believe that the right attitude is the foundation upon which students can move forward in their pursuit of excellence.

At last week’s assembly the following year 12 students were recognised for their pursuit of academic excellence and the attitude they have brought to their studies over the course of the year. This is reflected in the sacrifices they have made so that their studies come first, their ability to listen and take constructive feedback and a determination to persist till they get it right despite the inevitable setbacks along the way.

As I said at the assembly there are no guarantees for how they will finish at the end of the year however we extend to them every encouragement to finish this year in the same manner that they have started.

Rebecca Dodgson
Bonnie Tocknell
Alexandra Lacy
Jyssica Keen
Glen Salter
Lisa Peck
Zoran Dukanovic
Aurelie Lacase
Lucas Campbell
Eloise Briggs

ELECTION NEWS

In this the last week before the federal election I have included a letter from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria outlining the commitment to funding arrangements for the three major political parties.

“THE TIME MACHINE”
On-Line Ticketing

Tickets for all performances of the College Production “The Time Machine” are now available through Monash University’s 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 the St Peter’s College 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. Performances are as follows:

- Thursday 26 August evening performance at 7.30pm
- Friday 27 August evening performance at 7.30pm
- Saturday 28 August matinee at 2.00pm and evening performance at 7.30pm

A phone booking service is also available through Monash University – the contact number is 9905 1111 and this service is available Monday to Friday 10.30am-6.00pm.
PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

As previously advised, Parent Teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 9 Sept (4.00 – 8.30pm) and Friday 10 Sept (9.00 – 12.30). On Monday 30 August, all families will receive their login details in order to make bookings via the college website. As always, all parents are encouraged to meet with the teachers of their sons and daughters for an update on progress at this mid point in the semester.

Teachers will make particular requests for parent meetings where they have particular matters to discuss with parents. We do ask parents to follow up with these teachers in particular and, in addition, to avail themselves of any other teacher. Please be on the lookout for the Parent Teacher information to be mailed out shortly and contact they college for any further information or assistance. I look forward to seeing many parents at these sessions.

A mid term reflection

I invite our students and parents to reflect on the words of Daniel O’Leary:

Into every life, the wise ones say, comes one shining moment. It is a moment of glory. The curtains part, the vision is granted, and something is changed forever. That single experience, in one way or another, stays with us always and colours the whole of our lives. It is the timeless moment when the veil is drawn from the mystery of our existence, when our essence is disclosed to us, when we discover- even if only fleetingly – who we really are. It is a highly personal moment of truth. Your one bright shining moment may have to do with naming what or who you really love, that you need no longer be afraid because you are unconditionally loved by a God who delights in you; that, without a doubt, the universe and life itself are safe places for yourself, your children and all you love; that everything that has happened to you was not random happen-chance but part of a carefully crafted love story; that God comes to you usually disguised as your life, in all its bits and pieces; that, apart from one or two cherished beliefs, nothing matters very much; that it is in our weakness and sinfulness that we are strongest of all; that we are indestructible and untouched as long as we remain close to God. (Daniel O’Leary, Prism of Light)

Elizabeth Hanney
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Sporting News

SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Girls have tasted some success in past two weeks by notching up goals in both games. Unfortunately, both our opponents kicked more than one goal, but we have continued to display commitment, dedication and our brand of football is definitely improving. Game 2 against Saint Francis Xavier didn’t get off to a great start with the inclement weather affecting our ability to run and carry the football. However, it was great to see the girls trying to get first use of the football. Bianca Robinson was our first goal scorer this season, and excellent goal snapped out of the pack and through the uprights. Ally Lacy, Zo Clarke, Lauren Sweeny and Ginelle Lazarus were better players on the day. Steph Falzon gave an outstanding display of tackling in the final term which resulted in the loose ball for our first major.

Game 3 against Woodleigh was always going to be a tough encounter as they sat on the top of the ladder. The instructions from the coach was simple – run and carry the football. Geordee Etrich was outstanding with her run and carry making many daring runs which was giving us drive from the backline. Melissa Oskin who was captain for the day, showed leadership with determination of tring to drive the football forward. Tess Cook who came in for her first game was also showing dash on the wing. Unfortunately Woodleigh got out to a strong lead with 6 goals in the first quarter, but the girls didn’t let this put them off and some excellent tackling and pressure around the stoppages we were able to stem the scoring. Laura Francis ended up slotting our second goal for the season much to the delight of the team.

This week we have a bye. This will give us the chance to refresh up and be prepared to take on our next opponent, Beaconhills at home.

Chris O’Hara
COACH

SENIOR GIRLS’ SIS NETBALL

Our game this week was against John Paul College. The teams were evenly matched, with scores being level at quarter time. In the second quarter JPC got away to a good start and out scored the St Peters’ team 3 goals to 7. Some great play in the third quarter saw the St. Peters’ team come back to within one goal, winning that quarter convincingly. The final quarter was goal for goal, with the final result being a narrow 2 goal victory to JPC. Thanks to Elissa Bellagamba and Erin Lynch for stepping into the team and providing a link down the court. Also, it was fabulous to have the experience of Mel Spierings and Bianca Robinson for this round. Once again, Amy Cunliffe played an excellent game in centre, as did our goalers, Bianca and Rochelle and our defenders, Anita and Mel. Emerald was an asset to the team, using her height well when defending. Well done on a tough game this week.

Robyn Young
COACH
INTERMEDIATE BOYS SOCCER

Intermediate Boys Soccer vs Flinders (at home – Wed 11th Aug) Due to Deadlines and illness, only a shortened version of this classic encounter can unfortunately make it to press! In treacherous weather conditions the team battled to a well deserved 1-0 victory ... Ramnuth showing strength and speed to strike the only goal of the game. This earned him the Players Man of the Match vote. The Coach’s choice went to Corey Willshire who showed pace and power up front, posing a constant threat to the opposition. The Flinders defence didn’t know what Corey was going to do next ...... then again, neither did he!

Well done to all and bring on Padua next.

Mr Broadley

COACH

Tim Burton Exhibition

On Monday the 2nd August the year 11 and 12 media students and the middle school digtial film production class went into Melbourne to go and see the Tim Burton exhibition shown at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). The three class and teachers traveled by train to see the exhibition. The exhibition was fantastic. It was filled with different costumes and clips from the many movies he directed and produced, to the extreme art work created from Burtons twisted and creative mind . It showed that at a young age he strived to produce his own style of work, which has clearly been successful. The experience showed and taught me that from some simple storyboarded sketches can become an entire detailed movie. All in all the exhibition was a fun and an enjoyable experience which should not be missed.

Jake Barber Yr 11

CAREER NEWS

Open Days Coming….

- 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)

Reminders……

- 21 Aug - Advertising Seminar; 4 Sept – Public Relations Seminar; Details for each: Location: RMIT, 239 Bourke St, Melbourne; Cost: $55; Register: www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au
- 17 Aug – Music at Monash (Clayton) seminar; Info: 9905 3231; www.arts.monash.edu/music
- 19 & 25 Aug – Students with a disability or chronic medical condition Information Evenings; Preston: contact 9686 2354; Burwood: contact jill.sears@rmit.edu.au
- 2 Sept – Occupational Therapy seminar; Austin Hospital; Info/register: Ph 9496 5105

Yr 11 Road Awareness Program

On the 22nd of July the year 11 students were given an interesting insight into road safety. The seminar was presented by CFA volunteers, Victoria Police, a Truck driver educator and a road trauma victim, and was coordinated by Casey council. It was broken up over two periods and each session allowed students to view the CFA use the “Jaws of Life” in action with a demonstration of a car cut. Each student benefited from the seminar learning some important rules regarding road safety. The experience truly opened our eyes and will help us to be better drivers in the future.

Talia Steele 11E
Whenever we approach Federal Election time, many things are presented to us as the answer to every problem. Each party claims to have the answer to the question ‘How can we create the best country?’ It is at these times when all the well known parties and those hardly known at all present their views and policies that we can see how society is going. Some parties campaign for no funding at all for religious based schooling, others for a continuation or increase. Some parties campaign for same sex marriage others for condoms in schools and so on. So if we take the opportunity to consider all the different proposals we get some idea of what people are thinking in society.

It is no secret that many people today believe that neither church nor state should place limits on what they want to do, particularly the church. The Gospel I have referred to in the heading shows us Jesus’ response to the question “....... Lord, will only a few be saved?” Jesus says in response “Try to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and not be able.” Those who enter by the narrow door will not be the perfect but the faithful. They will be those who have fallen by the wayside and have turned to God for strength and forgiveness and have found their way again.

Jesus goes on to say to those knocking on the door saying “Lord, open to us.” “I do not know where you come from.” Of course, none of us are perfect, but Jesus knows those who seek him out in their imperfection. He knows those who remain faithful even though they fail to keep some commandments.

This Gospel came to mind as we were conducting a liturgy on World Religions. Statistics tell us that a very small percentage of nominal Catholics attend Church on a regular basis. Of all the world’s religions ours was one of the most committed. If that commitment is not there and we cease to be familiar with the teachings of Jesus and the Church, on what basis do we discern what is on offer politically? On what basis do we judge what are now accepted behaviours in society? E.g “Party drugs?” “Underage drinking?” “Casual sex?” and so on.

How many of us would want to try for the narrow door? Would we ever discuss this as a family? Our children and young adults are hearing the loud voice of the World telling them to ensure they try everything, it is all there for the taking. Let us do all we can to encourage consideration of the narrow door and be clear that it is not the way to a dull, subservient life where there is no fun. Rather, give the message that the narrow door is for those who have understood the message of Jesus and have tried to live a good respectful and prayerful life, and on the way have not had cause to be ashamed of their actions.

This Gospel is absolutely great for a family discussion with family members of all ages.
16 August 2010

Dear Parent

Directors of Catholic Education, as you would expect, do not tell people how to vote. However, elections are always important times to determine future policy – particularly in education. Our 488 Catholic schools educate almost 191,000 students in Victoria so it falls to us to inform parents and schools about the implications of each political party’s education policy for Catholic schools.

**Labor and Liberal consensus on funding to 2013**

We are pleased to announce that Catholic education has achieved a consensus from both the Labor and Liberal parties. The recurrent funding arrangements for Catholic schools are to continue – until at least the end of 2013. As a result of this consensus, Federal government funding will increase in real terms to keep pace with education costs in the government school system. This is a most welcome outcome and is an acknowledgement of the significant role Catholic education continues to play in the community. We believe that justice will be served when government funding for Catholic schools is continued on a similar basis beyond 2013.

**The Greens education policy**

The Greens education policy is to reduce funding to Catholic schools to 2003 levels. It is estimated that this will mean a loss of $427 million in Government funding for Catholic schools in Australia. In such a situation Catholic education in Victoria would be forced to absorb more than $110 million of this proposed cut. Furthermore, Catholic schools in Victoria would have no choice but to significantly raise fees, cut staff or reduce support to disadvantaged, needy and disabled students. The Greens have other policies which do not support the continuation of Catholic schools in their current form. Given their public statements, we can only assume The Greens will pursue these policies in the Federal Parliament. Further details of The Greens policies are available at [www.cecv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au).

**Other education policies**

Other significant announcements have been made on education over the last week. The proposals appear to deliver additional resources to Catholic schools and support parents, particularly with students that have special needs. Catholic education will cautiously consider these proposals and their implications for our Catholic schools.

In the interests of every Catholic school, student and family we will continue to engage and work productively with all political parties to the benefit of Catholic education.

We encourage you to consider all the issues for Catholic schools carefully. Please contact your political candidates and prompt them to consider the future direction of education policy in Australia.

Yours sincerely

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**Larry Burn**  
Director of Catholic Education  
Diocese of Ballarat

**Stephen Elder**  
Director of Catholic Education  
Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Peter Ryan**  
Director of Catholic Education  
Diocese of Sale

**Philomena Billington**  
Director of Catholic Education  
Diocese of Sandhurst