FROM THE PRINCIPAL

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews will be conducted this Thursday evening and Friday morning for all students in year 7-12. I include the following information from the “Harvard Family Research project” which outlines a positive and proactive approach to Parent Teacher Interviews which ensures that students, parents and teachers have shared and gained something from the process.

In a Catholic school we recognise that you the parents are your child’s first and most important teacher and we want to work with you to make sure your child learns and does well at school.

What can you expect?

- **A two-way conversation.** Just as you want to learn about your child’s progress at school, we want to hear from you about how you think your child is doing. When teachers know about children’s talents, interests, needs and dreams, they are better able to help their learning.
- **Emphasis on learning.** The focus of the interview is your child’s learning. We want to discuss how well your child is doing and what we can do to support even better learning. Come prepared with any questions you would like to ask the teacher.
- **Opportunities and challenges.** Teachers will always try to give you positive feedback about your child and areas for improvement. You will know your child’s strengths and areas of difficulty. Together, you and the teacher can explore ways to help your child with challenges.

What will be talked about?

- **Progress.** How is your child coping? Is your child performing at the expected age and year level? What are your child’s strengths? Where are the areas for improvement?
- **Assignments and assessments.** Ask to see examples of your child’s work. If you do not understand any assessments, ask the teacher to explain them to you.
- **Your thoughts.** Let the teacher know how you feel about your child’s progress and abilities. Tell the teacher about anything you think needs extra attention.

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**Learning at home.** Ask what you can do at home to help your child learn.

**Learning at school.** Find out what services or extra help are available at school if your child needs more support.

**Follow-up**

- Make a note of any actions you agree on with the teacher. You can use these notes for future meetings with the teacher.
- Find out the best ways to communicate with the teacher and make a plan that works for both of you.
- Talk with your child about the interview. Share with your child what you have learned. Show how you will be helping with learning at home. Pass on praise. Ask for your child’s views on how learning can be improved.

I am available at both interview sessions and look forward to meeting many of the parents of the St. Peter’s College Community.

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**HEAD OF LIBRARY**

I am pleased to announce that Ms Angela Gargano has accepted the position of Head of Library at St Peter’s College commencing in 2011. Ms Gargano has worked as the Head of Library at Mornington Secondary College for the last 10 years and brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge in Library management and discovery learning.

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Congratulations to Blue House winners of the 2010 Athletics Carnival

Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
**PREPARING FOR VCE EXAMS**

The most important thing to remember is not to allow yourself to get stressed about the VCE – it will detract you from being productive with your study. It is important that you study in a calm, positive environment and sit the exams in a calm, positive frame of mind. Planning and preparation, however, make a difference, so use your study time effectively.

- **When studying you should:**
  - do active reading—such as highlighting, underlining or circling words to develop a comprehensive set of study notes; don’t just reread notes
  - seek help from your teacher if you don’t understand something
  - work with a partner or small group of friends to test your understanding

- Don’t just rely on the knowledge and skills you have learnt through completing class work and assignments throughout the year. Practise writing answers in limited time periods. You also need to practise tackling a wide range of questions in case you do not get asked the questions you expected. These materials (available from the VCAA website [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce)) can assist your revision program:
  - current study designs for each subject—study designs describe the examination details and the knowledge that will be examined
  - past VCE papers—they show the style/type of questions that have been asked in the past and you can practise writing answers in a set time
  - examiners’ reports on each subject—these reports provide feedback, including comments on mistakes candidates made from previous years.

- **You should lead a balanced lifestyle.** This means:
  - taking short breaks from study at least every two hours
  - having reasonably early nights
  - eating a balanced diet
  - engaging in some physical exercise and social activities.

Remember the 5 Ps – Preparation and Planning Prevents Poor Performance. If you haven’t developed and started a Study Plan for the VCE, **Now** is the time to do it.

James Roberts  
**DIRECTOR OF LEARNING**

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**STUDENTS LEAVING THE COLLEGE**

Could parents of students not returning to St Peter’s College in 2011 please complete a Student Exit Form as soon as possible. This information will allow us to respond to students currently on our waiting lists particularly at Years 8, 9 & 10 for 2011. Student Exit Forms are available from the College Office.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kelley Cooper  
**Registrar**

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**Sporting News**

The annual St Peters Athletics Carnival took place on Tuesday 31st August, in windy and cloudy conditions.

The day started off with the year 12’s and house captains entering in the house colours and costumes, with Craig Thorne in his Panda outfit completing a one handed cartwheel being the highlight. As the events got started, there were records being broken from the very beginning, with a total of 8 new records being broken across the day. The day finished with the staff v students relay, and despite the staff thinking this could finally be the year to win, it was the students who came away with a narrow victory.

All students are to be congratulated on their behaviour, and sportsmanship on the day. Overall it was Blue house who came away as the champion team.

- **1st** Blue House 1,689 points
- **2nd** Red House 1,518 points
- **3rd** Gold House 1,486 points
- **4th** Green House 1,448 points

We now look forward to the SIS Athletics Carnival, which is to be held early next term at Olympic Park.

Justin De Goldi  
**SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR**

**Senior Girls Football**

Last Thursday the girls were up against John Paul College on their home ground. The team had a number of players missing but the biggest lose was undoubtedly the presence of their inspirational coach Chris ‘Malthouse’ O’Hara. Despite this major setback the girls were determined to finish the season on a positive note. The girls initially struggled with the new game plan and this was evident with John Paul College kicking the first two goals of the game. Laura snapped truly late in the quarter to have us a goal down at quarter time. After some sole searching the girls attacked the second quarter with renewed confidence. They applied Collingwood like forward pressure, however, they also adopted Collingwood’s goal kicking worries, kicking 1 goal 5 behinds for the quarter. John Paul College hit back hard in the third quarter before St. Peter’s regrouped and benefited from a hard pre-season, finishing the stronger team in the last quarter and running out victors.
St. Peter’s: 5 - 10 = 40     John Paul 4 – 2 = 26

Goals: Laura Francis, Jenna Edwards, Ginelle Lazareth, Steph Falzon, Zoe Clarke.

Best Players: Melissa Oskan, Zoe Clarke, Jenna Edwards, Jess Cottrell, Mel Speirings, Bianca Robinson and the rest of the team.

Mark Barnes
ACTING COACH

TERM 3 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 9th Sept</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (4-8.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10th Sept</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (9-12.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 13th Sept</td>
<td>Year 12 Dance &amp; Drama Performance - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 15th Sept</td>
<td>Central Australia Trip Departs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 17th Sept</td>
<td>End Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 4th Oct</td>
<td>Term 4 begins (STUDENT FREE DAY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 5th Oct</td>
<td>Students RETURN</td>
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CAREER NEWS

YEAR 12 NEWS:
This is a very busy time of the year for all of our Year 12 students as they finish up their coursework, begin their exam preparation and start to make some big decisions about their futures.

Year 12’s are encouraged to continue entering their VTAC preferences for both TAFE and University courses. Time is quickly running out for you to make your timely applications, by September 30th. As this falls during the school holidays, students have less than 2 weeks to complete these applications with assistance from the school. The 30th September is also the cut-off date for SEAS and scholarship applications. Any students who wish to apply for SEAS at RMIT must see Mrs Maher asap so the school can endorse your application.

VTAC post a list of cancelled, altered and new courses on their website. Students are encouraged to check this list regularly to ensure the courses they would like to choose have not changed. The VTAC website will also have information on additional requirements such as: interviews, folios, or supplementary information forms which may need to be completed before students can be considered for the course.

YEAR 12 DRAMA AND DANCE PERFORMANCE NIGHT 2010

at: St Peter’s College Hall
on: Monday 13th September at 7.00pm

Come along and support the students before their final performance EXAMS!

Shannon Maher
CAREERS
Last Sunday a group of children made their first Holy Communion at St Agatha’s Church. It was a very special day in their lives and a special day for their families. First thing Monday morning I had a class of year 7 students in the Chapel for a Liturgy in which their Baptism and Confirmation were recalled and the commitments that were made by and for these students. The whole subject of Baptism and commitment has been on my mind recently because the whole of year 7 are studying and discussing these things. As parents it is a great challenge for us to explain or to model this commitment to our children in matters of faith. The Gospel of last Sunday has some confronting passages if we take them at face value. A term such as “if anyone comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple” is easy to dismiss as fanaticism. Yet if we ever do that with scripture we are selling ourselves short, worse still we are selling the Word of God short. When we spend a little time with this scripture, we see that the message Jesus is giving is that we should not allow anything or anybody to get in the way of the call to discipleship.

There are so many ways today which do take over our lives and lead us into all sorts of situations which we don’t like. However, in many ways, in the search for self expression we have become conformist. What we truly believe is very often unknown, even to ourselves. For instance, at baptism, our children receive a lighted candle, with the words “receive the Light Of Christ” And then the following words are said, “Parents and Godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours been enlightened by Christ and is to walk always as a child of the Light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their heart.........”

I am sure that any parent who has had a child baptised would want their child to walk as a child of the light, and I am just as sure that most parents would say that they give good example to their children. The question is, do we give an example in matters of faith? Do we take seriously the words at baptism “.....this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly......”? There are so many ways that parents support and encourage their children and yet so often the area of faith is neglected. As you have heard me say before, sending a child to a Catholic school and leaving matters of faith to the school is not sufficient. The example of a lived faith in the home is far more powerful in the spiritual development of a child.

In some cases it might be something that has simply been forgotten over time rather than abandoned. There is always a reason for doing or not doing something, maybe we could ask ourselves what is the reason that we have drifted away from the things of faith. If there isn’t a good one, well, what’s next? Anyway, if anyone would like to have a chat about this or anything else, please feel free to contact me here at the College. I would like to offer as a reflection a prayer written by a high school student in St Louis Missouri:

    Parents
    When I argue with my parents God,
    Please help me to remember who they are.
    I should respect them at all times
    And realize that they have given me so much.
    I am who I am because of how they raised me.

Help me to see myself in their position
And to understand how much parents love their kids.
I will be in their shoes someday,
And I know that parenthood is not an easy job.
They are learning as much as I am
Because this is still new to them, too.

Deacon Tony Aspinall
COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

THE ANNUAL ITALIAN MASS & PROCESSION will take place on Sunday 10th October at 2.30pm at St.Agatha’s Church . Enquires Teresea 5996 1845 or Filomena 5996 4803. See notice board for further details.


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.

CARITAS PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL: Donations to provide desperately needed emergency relief to the 20 million people affected by flooding in Pakistan can be given online at www.caritas.org.au or send to GPO Box 9830 in your Capital City or call 1800 024 413.

MUSIC MINISTRY: We have an urgent need for assistance in our Parish with our music ministry. Do you play the keyboard and are willing to learn to play at Mass? The Sisters Choir especially needs an organist/keyboard player as do other Parish choir/singing groups. Please contact Sr. Mercy if you can help through the Parish Office on 5996 1985.

SOLEMN HIGH MASS (The Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite) will be offered in the presence of Bishop Prowse in our Parish on Sunday 3rd October at 4pm followed by afternoon tea. This will be the inaugural Mass for a monthly “Miss Cantata” at St. Agatha’s to be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at 4pm. All Welcome! This is an initiative of outreach of the Latin Mass Melbourne Community with the support of Bishop Prowse and St. Agatha’s Parish.

POSITION VACANT: Parish Gardener for Church & Presbytery grounds, 8 hours per week worked flexibly. This position would suit an active retired parishioner. Expressions of interest are invited, briefly written & sent to the Parish Office by 10th September.

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE