ST. PETER’S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

STUDENTS BEHAVING WELL
It was a pleasure to be a part of two events over the past week which highlighted the calibre of young people we have at St Peter's College. Our Year 12 students completed their retreat program with openness and honesty. Their ability to reflect upon, articulate and share their life experiences and what gives meaning to their lives was a privilege to witness and I have high hopes for them as they take on the mantle of student leadership this year. My thanks to all staff involved in the running of these retreats and in particular our new Religious education leader Mrs Mary Murphy.

On Saturday night it was great to see a large number of students and families celebrate the beginning of the Victorian Certificate of Education and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning at the Year 11 Formal. Much will be expected of these students as they move into the senior years of schooling at St Peter’s and judging from their exuberance on Saturday night I think they are very much ready to meet these challenges and responsibilities head on. More pictures of these events can be found on our school website.

INFORMATION EVENINGS
Over the coming weeks a number of information evening will be staged for the various Year levels beginning with our Year 7 night on Monday the 13 of February. I encourage all families to attend these nights with their sons and daughters as it not only gives an understanding as to our philosophical approach to education but represents a great opportunity to meet the teachers and other key staff who will take a primary role in their education over the coming years. See this newsletter for a full list of dates of the information evenings held over this month.

OPENING MASS
I extend an invitation to all of our parents to the opening mass of the school year. This celebration mass will be conducted by our new Canonical Administrator Fr Denis O'Bryan in his first official role at St Peter’s College. The Mass beginning in the Multi-purpose Hall at 9.15am on Thursday will conclude with a morning tea for our newly elected senior student leaders for 2011.

VISIT FROM BISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE
On the 25th of February Bishop Christopher Prowse will meet with students at St Peter’s as part of his two day visit to the St Agatha’s Parish of Cranbourne. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet our Pastoral leader and further enhance their understanding of Christian discipleship as it will be for Bishop Christopher to listen to their hopes and challenges.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION MEETING 22 FEBRUARY
The first meeting of the Parents & Friends Association will take place on Tuesday the 22nd of February at 7.30 pm in the staffroom of St Peter’s College and I invite all new and old members of our community to attend. Throughout the year various members of the teaching staff will present to the P&F meeting by way of introduction and to allow parents to gain a perspective on the running of the College. The meetings are informal and have as their focus a number of fundraising activities aimed at providing funds for a range of student programs and activities.

YEAR 7 2012 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN
Applications are now being taken for Year 7 2012 at both the Cranbourne West and Cranbourne East campus. Application forms are available from the College Office.
Enrolments close Friday 11 March. Please contact our Registrar Kelley Cooper for more information.

ACCESS TO DISABLED PARKING
A reminder to all parents and visitors to the college that the disabled parking bay must be used only by those holding the appropriate permit. Recently, this bay has been used by those accessing the front office but has prevented wheelchair access for a student. This bay is to be kept free at all times, unless for the direct use by those with a permit. We thank parents and visitors for their support in this regard.

Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL

Wednesday 16th February, 2011
Term 1 Issue No. 1
STAFF BEGIN WELL
All teaching staff returned recently to take part in several days of preparation and professional learning. This they did with great enthusiasm and creativity. We are delighted to welcome new and experienced teachers to our community this year (as the full staff listing in last week’s newsletter showed) and we know they will have much to offer our students and their colleagues. Most of the meetings held in these early days was around the many and varied ways we can tap into the strengths of our students and encourage them to do and be their best. Much professional sharing and learning took place to enable staff to consistently be working to maximise student learning. As a result, we have adopted a number of specific approaches and processes to help students achieve – these will be outlined at forthcoming parent information evenings and I urge all parents to attend in order to work in effective partnership with us. One approach which will take place immediately is that all families will be contacted by their child’s home room teacher over the coming weeks. This will be an important first conversation in establishing a positive start for all students. Please make a note of the parent information evenings over the coming weeks and I hope to meet many parents on these occasions.

Elizabeth Hanney
Deputy Principal

SIGN OUT PROCEDURES
If a student needs to leave the College before the end of the school day, they must bring a hand written note from home and present it to the Student Reception upon signing out (no permission will be accepted over the phone) or see their Year Level Coordinator for permission in their Student Record Book. The student is then required to present either the note from home or in their Record Book to the Student Reception for signing out.

OPENING COLLEGE MASS- THURSDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, PERIOD ONE- UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS
All students must wear the full College Uniform on Thursday (including Blazer) to and from school. Therefore, if you have Phys Ed on that day, you will be required to wear the College Uniform and bring their PE Uniform to change into. All students will be inspected for full uniform during morning homeroom on Thursday.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) 2011
The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled in a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2011 for instalment 1 and 5 August 2011 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must be enrolled on the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2011) for the first instalment and on the first day of 3rd Term (18 July 2011) for the second instalment:

(a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, OR
(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
(c) be a foster parent.

EMA applications forms maybe collected from the College officeApplications must be submitted to the College by 28 February 2011

FROM THE YR 11 CO-ORDINATOR

A fantastic evening was had by all who attended the Yr 11 Formal last Saturday night. It was a fabulous way to start the year, and for parents, students and staff to enjoy great company (and dancing!!)

Just a reminder that the VCE information night is this Wednesday 16th February, and we require students and parents from VCE AND VCAL programs to attend. We will be starting in the Hall and then breaking off into homerooms with homeroom teachers. I look forward to seeing you there.

Gina Goss
YEAR 11 CO-ORDINATOR
UPCOMING EVENTS:

25th (Friday 9-4) & 26th (Saturday 10-3) March ~ The National Careers and Employment Expo.

The largest national FREE EVENT in Melbourne invites visitors both young and old to come along and get careers advice, discuss study options with leading Universities, TAFE and private education providers, source information on industries of interest and speak directly with employers such as the; Victorian State Government & Government Agencies, Defence Force Recruitment, Victoria Police, Master Builders of Victoria, Qantas, Flight Centre, BAE Systems, Rail Careers and Villa Maria about employment opportunities within their organisations.

YEAR 10 STUDENTS – WORK EXPERIENCE

All year 10 students are expected to have their work experience placements organised by the end of Term 1. That gives students another 7 weeks to work on this if they have not already started. This timeline is put on students to ensure they do not leave things to the last minute. Several local schools also do work experience at the same time of the year, and if students leave things to the last minute the chances of them getting the position they would like are reduced. Students are welcome to visit the careers room for assistance if they need it.

We have received a letter from Melbourne Football Club offering work experience to 30 students across the state. If you would like some more information about this opportunity please visit the careers room.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS – MOODLE

All year 12 students and parents are encouraged to visit the careers moodle site during the year. It is regularly updated with links to TAFE and university websites, upcoming events, information about certain careers, etc. If students or parents would like any specific information posted on this site or would like clarification of any of the info contained on this page please email me at careers@stpeters.vic.edu.au.

DEFENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE - YEAR 11 & 12 STUDENTS.

The 2011 Defence Technical Scholarships program is now taking applications and offers up to 1500 scholarships each year to students in Years 11 and 12 interested in pursuing a technical trade career in the Australian Defence Force. Please visit the careers office for more details or an application form.

Shannon Maher
Careers Coordinator

Homework Club

Educational research is inconclusive regarding controversial debate about the benefits of homework. If you have a son or daughter who is happy to quietly do their homework without a fuss, the issue most likely won't be of particular interest to you. If however you have a child who groans about homework, who finds homework a challenge or who thinks that if they are working at school all day they should not have to work at home as well, then I imagine you will have very definite ideas on the subject! No doubt you will agree that there are times when homework can be a major source of family conflict and anxiety for both children and parents in the home.

St. Peter's College may have a solution to your problem...Homework Club!

Situated at the rear of the Library, the Homework Club is a place for students to study and to receive 1-1 help with their homework and assignments. Students are encouraged to do their best in a helpful, positive and friendly environment.

Attending Homework Club once or twice a week can enable students to take personal responsibility for managing their schoolwork commitments, to develop a study routine, self discipline, organisational and time management skills.

The Club runs from Monday to Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm and is available for all students, Years 7-12.

Clare Ziino
Special Programs Coordinator

CRICKET TRY-OUTS

This Wednesday after school in the nets.

Mr Sinclair and Mr Carmody

BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE
SAVER PLUS MATCHED SAVINGS PROGRAM
HELPING VICTORIANS SAVE

Saver Plus is a nationally-recognised program that pays people $1 for every $1 you save (up to $500) to help pay for education. By joining Saver Plus you could receive $500 to help pay for school items like computers, community activities, books and uniforms.

The program is Australia's first matched savings program, designed to help families achieve a savings goal, establish a long-term saving habit and pay for education. It has been recognised by the government and received a Prime Minister's award.

To be eligible you must have:

- A child attending school in 2011-2012, or be intending to attend vocational training yourself in 2011-2012.
- A current health care card or pension card and
- Regular form of paid employment (yourself or partner).

Please contact Kelly Clem at Brotherhood of St Laurence on 8781 5937 or email kclem@bsl.org.au

Jake Rackham and Joshua Dodgson completing their house set out in VET Building Construction
Last week the College held the year 12 Retreats. The theme, or focus for the liturgies was “Be not afraid of what is to come”. Of course, in order to not be afraid of what is to come we need to be equipped to deal with it. We endeavour to equip our students with what they need for the future which includes a knowledge of the importance of a spiritual life. Some people take that to mean new age practices and star signs etc. That of course has nothing to do with spirituality in the Catholic sense. To be in touch with our Spirit it is necessary to acknowledge that we are creatures of God, body, Spirit, soul and mind. Our Spirit constantly yearns to be united with the Spirit of God.

Part of our aim is to enable the students to know that they are a home for the Holy Spirit and are deeply loved by God. Equally, their fellow students are Spirit filled children of the same God who loves them in the same way. Our whole understanding of the dignity of the human person stems from this. Every person is made in the image and likeness of God and as such is worthy of respect. Every time we befriend a person and treat them with respect we are in a small way uniting with the Spirit of God which is dwelling within them.

During the retreats, particularly during the liturgies there is a wonderful willingness and capacity amongst the students to enter into quiet reflection. This time is all too short, we all need to make opportunities to be quiet and to reflect on life, our direction and our companion on life’s journey, God. When this is possible we come to know that each of us is loveable, we are loved by God and by others. When reflecting on love it is good to bring to mind the words of the “Peace Prayer” of St Francis, “Grant that I may not so much seek.....to be loved as to love with all my soul; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.”

If the prayerful, reflective side of our lives is neglected we remain underdeveloped in a crucial area of our humanity. We are not complete if we deny the Spirit of God which dwells in us and is the life giving force of our life’s journey. Consequently we encourage all our students to discover, or maybe rediscover their relationship with God through His Holy Spirit. Pray for all young people who are beginning their journey of life and faith, that they may discover the joy and peace which comes from the God who loves them, the God who made them.

Prayer For The Guidance of God
God, our Creator, teach us to live the Gospel With Hearts that are pure in a spirit of Joy, Simplicity, mercy, and love for one another. We ask you this in Jesus name. Amen

Deacon Tony Aspinall
College Chaplain

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

A VISIT FROM BISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE: Another important event is to happen in the next two weeks. Bishop Christopher will be making a pastoral visit to our parish from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th February.

RAISE THE ROOF COMMITTEE: Trivia Night in the Parish Hall on Friday 18th Feb at 7pm. Tickets are $10 each. You can make up a table or we will organise one for you. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. Tickets will be available on the night however, we would appreciate pre-purchase so that we know how many to cater for.

ST. THOMAS PARISH FUNDRAISER: Our first fundraiser for the new Cranbourne East Parish will be Combined Parishes CAR RAFFLE. We are appealing for interested parishioners to be involved in selling tickets each weekend after 7pm Mass Saturday and 6pm Mass Sunday. If you can assist please contact Tina in the Parish Office on 5996 1985.

RCIC: Classes will start March 20th for teenagers who are in years 7-12 and would like to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the end of this year. Please collect an Enrolment form from the Parish Office before 20th March 2011.

INVIGORATE: (Youth Group Years 7-8) First meeting of the year will be held on the 27th February in the Parish Hall at 7pm (after 6pm Mass). Please come and join us! Newbies are most welcome. Enquiries, please contact Yani 0423 329 454.

ST. AGATHA’S COMBINED SCHOOL FETE CARNIVAL: Will be held on St. Patrick’s Day, Thursday 17th March in the St. Agatha’s School grounds 4pm-8pm.

THE RELIC OF ST. JOHN BOSCO: The visit of the Relic of Don Bosco is an experience that the Salesians of Don Bosco wish to share, for more information there is a brochure on the notice board in the Foyer or visit www.Salesians.org.au

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE