INDUCTION OF COLLEGE LEADERS
I congratulate the College leaders who were inducted into their positions at the Opening School Mass last Thursday. We are building a strong culture of student leadership that has as its core the function of service for our community. Our student’s leaders for 2011 have the responsibility of continuing that legacy and I have great confidence that they will grow and develop in their role and do justice to the faith that this community has shown in them.

College Captains
Todd Roscoe & Bronwyn McInnes

Vice Captains
Mandy Magias & Jack Minton.

Social Justice Captain
Brittany Hay

Liturgy Captain
Fosio Dunlop

Arts Captain
Alisha Mascurine

Environment Captain
Jackson Barfoot

Sports Captains
Helen Katsimalis & Chris Brooking

House Captains
Red House - Rhiannon Kyberd & Ben Ashkenazi
Blue House - Skye Brennan & Peter Johnson
Green House - Lauretta Lekakis & Daniel Methakul
Gold House - Jessica Hall & Ethan McLean

CONGRATULATIONS
Scott Werkmiester in year 8 has been successful in gaining a part in Opera Australia’s new production of La Bohème. The production will run from the 12th of April to the 14th of May at the State Theatre in the Arts Centre precinct. This is Scott’s second role with Opera Australia and follows a film debut last year in the ABC production of Abraham. I wish him well over the next month and will place photos from his performance on the school website under news and events.

THE BEST KIND OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOL
I include the following research from Dr Nancy Hill, co-editor of Families, schools and the Adolescent for those parents who are looking at the best ways they can support their children as they go through secondary school.

Having their parents along on an excursion is not always what an adolescent wants. When students leave primary school, it can be much harder for parents to find out how they are doing holistically, because their children now have so many teachers, some of whom see over 100 students a day.

Parent-involvement ideas that work at primary level are often less effective for secondary students. These include helping with homework (very little impact on student achievement) and visiting the school, volunteering, and attending school events (moderate impact). That’s not to say teenagers don’t value their parents’ support and involvement in school activities. Studies have shown the children of parents who are involved in their adolescent’s education, do better according to many indicators.

What parent activities do make a difference for older students?
- Communicating expectations for achievement.
- Discussing learning strategies.
- Linking school content and the child’s interests to outside activities.
Working with the student to prepare for further education and training.

Fostering career aspirations and making plans for the future.

These types of parent involvement are grandly called ‘academic socialisation’ and parents and schools can maximise them. Educating parents about modern requirements for qualifications, further education and careers can update outmoded ideas with significant benefits for their children.

Schools can help guide these parents to make their efforts more effective so they can say to their children, “Here are the courses you need to take, and here is how you can get ready so your pathways lie open”.

The information evenings over the last month, parent teacher interviews and subject selection evenings in term 3 are all opportunities for parents to learn more about the different pathways that are open to students from year 9 onwards. The more parents know of these options the more they can be involved with the type of discussions outlined above with the end result being students who are more engaged with their education and its longer term purpose. I encourage parents to take advantage of our teaching staff in this regard as you will find them only too willing to assist you in this vital parenting role.

Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL

YEAR LEVEL INFORMATION EVENINGS

We extend thanks to the many parents who have attended our recent run of Information Evenings. These evenings have been well prepared by staff and have had the aim of providing parents with the most relevant information to enable our students to have a successful transition into another year level. They have also enabled parents and homeroom teachers to meet one another and discuss individual student needs. I would also like to thank the Year Level Coordinators and Home Room Teachers at each level for their commitment, pastoral care and real desire for student success. I encourage any parent who was unable to attend these evenings to ring the homeroom teacher of their son and daughter with any issues which need to be discussed. This early establishment of partnership between school and home is vital for the success of student learning and wellbeing.

Elizabeth Hanney
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

BISHOP PROWSE VISITS

This Friday, we look forward to welcoming Bishop Prowse to St Peter’s. This will be Bishop Prowse’s second visit to the College and on this occasion he will meet with our College Leaders and a number of Yr 7 classes. In addition, Bishop will address all Yr 11 students. These occasions are a great opportunity for our students to connect with and feel part of a universal church, led in our local area, by Bishop Prowse. Bishop Prowse is an engaging speaker who has shown great interest in meeting with our students - we encourage them to get to know our Bishop and to learn a little more about our shared faith.

Elizabeth Hanney
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

CRANBOURNE EAST

Students have now completed the first cycle of classes and have settled in well to their temporary classrooms. They attended the College Opening Mass last week and were able to get a sense of the size of the St Peter’s College community that they have joined and will be a part of for the next 6 years.

Students are now looking forward to their first swimming carnival which will be held tomorrow at Doveton Pool. It is now only two weeks to the Year 7 Camp at Camp Rumbug and it promises to be an exciting and enjoyable experience for all students. Permission Slips, medical forms and dietary requirements for this are due by the end of this week. This week students commenced study skills sessions which will focus on assisting students in developing foundational practices that will set them up for success in High School. These sessions are conducted once a fortnight and usually require a small amount of homework. They can also provide a great lead in for parents in starting a conversation on how their child is finding the transition into high school.

James Roberts
Head of Campus – Cranbourne East

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.
A heartfelt welcome to ALL our new Year Seven’s at Cranbourne West and Cranbourne East! The move from primary to secondary school is full of mixed emotions ranging from excitement through to fear and overwhelming anxiety. It involves more challenging work, new teachers, and the daunting task of making new friends. There may also be ‘grieving’ for the loss of old friends and teachers.

During this time, it is normal for young people to be a bit frightened or anxious. All these things are typical of them feeling stressed and overwhelmed by the changes and expectations they are facing.

There are a number if important things parents can do to support their child during this time, including:

- **Providing Support and Encouragement**
  Some young people will surprise you with their resilience during stressful times. Others benefit from having someone there to give a cheer or smile from the sideline.

- **Listening**
  Provide your child with opportunities to express her feelings about school, friendships or any other topics. Take a genuine interest in what she says.

- **Getting Involved**
  Soon after school starts you will be invited to your first parent-teacher meeting. This will be a valuable opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and talk about any concerns you or your child’s teachers might have.

- **Contacting Your Child’s Home Group Teacher sooner if you have any concerns**
  Home Group Teachers are able to provide first-hand reassurance, monitor progress and help coordinate extra support efforts throughout the school.

- **Establishing Consistent Routines Both at Home and at School**
  For example, having a copy of your child’s school timetable on the fridge door to help with preparation of the day or writing lists of what to do each day may help your child to know what is going to happen and what is expected. This may also help her to feel safe and secure.

- **Providing Practical Support**
  For example, the prospect of having to negotiate the trip to school on public transport can be quite daunting. Consider accompanying your child on the train or bus as a ‘test-run’ to help familiarise them with the routine.

- **Providing Balance**
  Make sure your child maintains a healthy balance in her life. For example, ensure she also enjoys positive activities outside of school (e.g. family outings, time with friends from primary school, and other extra-curricular activities). Also, make sure your child is getting enough sleep (things always seem worse when you are tired).

- **Helping Establish New Friendships**
  For example, provide opportunity for your daughter to invite new friends home.

- **Problem Solving**
  Make the time to talk with your child. Sometimes young people aren’t that great at problem solving and can let things blow up out of proportion. If your daughter tells you of a problem they are having, ask them three things they think they might be able to do about it. This gives you the opportunity to understand how your child is viewing the problem and also provides a way for you to offer suggestions as to how the problem might be solved.

For most young people, it will take some time to adjust to the new demands, routines and structure of secondary school. During this time it is normal for them to display a range of emotions. The majority adjust and feel comfortable with these changes by the end of first term.

If you feel that your child is not adjusting well, please feel free to contact the school (e.g. Home Group Teacher, House Leader or School Psychologist) so that we can work together to assist.

**Mrs Anita Carter – DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELFARE**
**& Ms Nadia Picinali – SCHOOL COUNSELLOR**
DEAR PARISHIONERS: This week we welcome Bishop Christopher to our Parish. Bishop Christopher will celebrate our Friday morning Mass at 9.30am, the Saturday evening Mass at 7pm and the two Sunday Morning Masses. On Saturday afternoon, at 4.30pm all Parishioners are invited to St Agatha’s Church for a Gospel mediation led by Bishop Christopher. These are rare opportunities, so please make the most of them.

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.

ATTENTION WYD2011 PILGRIMS: Please make sure you’ve locked the next WYD2011 Pilgrim Boot Camp session in your diary 4pm – 7.30pm, Sunday February 27, St Michael’s Hall, Church Street Traralgon. All WYD2011 Pilgrims MUST attend this session! Please contact Jess or Kelly on 5126 1063 if you have any questions.

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

During this transition time my mind has been re-captivated by an image of God made popular in the year 2000 through a book by Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, The Hospitality of God., A Reading of Luke’s Gospel. This title sums up what is essential at this time of the year for so many coming into new situations. We have experienced the hospitality of God by entering into the community of St Peter’s and for this we are thankful. In fact we all begin afresh in a new year so let us all try to take to heart the hospitality of God made manifest in Jesus.

We pray that having experienced God’s grace of hospitality we will confidently reach out in welcome to all in any kind of need in our College Community.

Mary B Murphy
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADER

STUDENT AFFIRMATION
St. Peter’s has a well developed Social Justice group. The members are committed to helping the marginalised in a number of ways. Therefore, it was pleasing to note two of our younger students helping St. Vincent De Paul in the annual distribution of Christmas Hampers last December. Whilst Christmas was two months ago this is the first opportunity to affirm Taryn Johnson and Larissa Rixon, both Year 9 students in 2011, for their Christian Charity and willingness to assist the needy.

Catherine Tharle, a Year 8 student in 2011 accompanied her friend from John Paul College to assist the preparation of the hampers. Catherine is also thanked for her Christian Charity.

Greg Nelson - ASSISTANT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADER