FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MYSCHOOL WEBSITE

Over the last week the MySchool Website has been relaunched giving a breakdown of the total funding per child that each school receives from all sources including Government (Federal and State) and Private (School Fees and other income).

The Catholic System as a whole fares well in comparison to the Independent and Government Sector. The Catholic Education System educates approximately 20% of the 3.4 million students in Australia with an average national net recurrent income per student (NRIPS) of $10,000 compared to $11,100 for children in public schools and $13,700 for young people attending independent schools.

I will let parents be the judge of whether or not they are getting good value for money but I am sure that the Government at both State and Federal level are very aware of the significant costs they would incur if the Catholic Education System did not provide for the 680,000 students we currently cater for.

The review of Funding for Schooling is considering information from all sectors in relation to the future allocation of Federal funds for schooling. Many groups are providing information in a way that promotes their agenda. It is an issue that parents need to be aware of and raise their voices at an appropriate time as changes to the funding system that reduce what we currently receive from the Federal Government would leave us in the position of either reducing the quality of the education we currently deliver by cutting services or raising school fees to cover the reduction in federal funding.

The Review of Federal Funding for Schooling will deliver its final advice to the Australian Government in the second half of 2011. I attach the "Background on Catholic School Funding from Stephen Elder Director of Catholic Education in the Arch Diocese of Melbourne for your information.

Those wishing to make a submission to the Review can find a template for their response at the following website: www.deewr.gov.au/fundingreview. All submissions should be sent to:

Secretariat
Review of Funding for Schooling
Location C16MT4
GPO Box 9880
Canberra ACT 2601

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

With our Year 12 Captains elected late last year, our Leaders have had the opportunity to make an early start to their planning for 2011. Please see article in this newsletter by our Social Justice Captain, Brittany Hay, regarding raising money for the Queensland Flood Relief Appeal.

Last Thursday, the leaders had a "refresher" of the skills they were introduced to at their Leadership Training Day last year, and prepared themselves for speaking to the Years 7 to 11 students about nominating to become a forum leader.

This meant that the Year 12 Leaders went in pairs to a Year Level Assembly and talked about their leadership experience so far and encouraged the students to nominate for the Homeroom Forum. Each homeroom in years 7 to 11 will now elect two forum leaders (one male and one female) who will represent their homeroom at regular meetings to discuss issues that arise regarding their Year Level (Years 7 to 11). This effectively gives each student in the College a voice. Each Year Level then elects two Student Representative Council members (from the 12 Forum Leaders of their year level), who represent the Year Level at the regular SRC Meetings. The Year 12 Leaders are also members of this SRC.

This leadership structure allows communication to be open and hopefully makes the College a better place for our students. The SRC members from Years 7 to 11 will receive their badges at a Whole School Assembly on the 15th of March.

Anthony Banks

YEAR 7 2012 Enrolments Close THIS FRIDAY (11 March)

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.

Please contact our Registrar Kelley Cooper for more information.

Wednesday 9th March, 2011
Term 1 Issue No. 5

Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
CAPTAINS REPORT

"As college captains for 2011, myself and co-captain Bronwyn McInnes would like to place a strong emphasis on participation in College life throughout the school year, and encourage all students to share their own unique personalities with the rest of the school to help make St. Peters the vibrant community it is. Personally, I am a fun-natured, friendly person, who takes schooling and sport very seriously. I am currently studying English, Maths Methods (CAS), Biology, Chemistry and Legal Studies, and completed Psychology in 2010. Outside of school, I am a keen footballer and cricketer, and don’t mind a round of golf every now and then. I look forward to the coming year, and in partnership with the Year 12 Leadership Team, hope to help make 2011 a memorable year for not only the students of St. Peters, but for the staff and the wider community involved with the College.”

Todd Roscoe
COLLEGE CAPTAIN

Sausage Sizzle for Queensland Flood Relief Appeal

Last Friday, 4th March, St Peter’s College held a sausage sizzle at lunch time in order to raise money for the victims affected by the Queensland floods. Kind donations from Tj Meats, LG Gourmet Chickens and McKays enabled us to send 100% of the earnings to those who needed it. It was a great success, we raised a total of $306.65, which will all be donated to the Premier’s Flood Relief Appeal. I’d like to thanks everyone who was involved and helped generate such a great success.

Brittany Hay
Social Justice Captain

LIBRARY CHAT

Small Fish Welcomed to the Big Pond...Sea
Over the past two weeks all Year 7 students visited the library for an Introductory Library Session. They enjoyed the opportunity to explore their feelings about being at high school while creating a sea creature that became part of a colourful library display.

Students were also encouraged to embark on their reading journey by borrowing a book or two. We look forward to working with them as they grow throughout their years at St Peter’s College.

Angela Gargano
Teacher Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

SPONSORS NEWS

Congratulations to Jasmine Carroll of Year 9 who achieved outstanding results at the Victorian Youth Track and Field championships. Jasmine won gold in the U/16 Hammer Throw and achieved a silver medal in the javelin. She now will travel to Sydney this weekend to compete at the National Track and Field championships. We wish Jasmine all the best for the competition.

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS SIS HANDBALL

The Intermediate Girls Handball team travelled to Berwick last Friday for our first match of the fixture. We played against St Francis Xavier and the girls came away with a great win. Despite having many new players in the squad this year, the girls combined really well to defeat SFX. Congratulations girls and keep up the good work.

Score: St Peters 8 def St Francis Xavier 2
Goal Scorers: Kaitlyn Wakartschuk 4, Brooke Poulter 2, Deanna Parisi 1, Cristin Daly 1.
Best Players: Breannon Sutton, Cristin Daly, Kaitlyn Wakartschuk and Marli Tatham

Cathy Heijden

SIS SENIOR GIRLS SOCCER VS PADUA

The season opener saw the Senior Girls up against a Padua side who had proved superior in recent seasons. The squad was made up of largely familiar members, with a few new welcome additions, but was missing Midfield linch-pin Katsimalis who had ‘Leadership’ commitments. Debutant Alanis took her starting role in the Engine Room having been described as both “fit and quick” by her team mates. Things took an upward turn as the Padua coach got off the team bus and revealed they had travelled with only 8 players! In a display of true sportsmanship the decision was made that we would play with 11.... this transpired to be a wise move! The highlight of the 1st half was ref. Parton blowing for time as neither side could break the deadlock – the Padua number 16 proving to be a rock in the centre of defence. With the fitness levels of the girls questionable – “this is the first physical exercise I’ve done since Soccer last year!”- the subs were literally rolled on and off more frequently after the restart. Finally Irwin gave the crowd something to cheer about with a crisp finish from close range to Irwin, who instantly fired over a cross to the edge of the six yard box. Striker O’Brien was in position and produced a flying volley...unfortunately she only made contact with fresh air and the chance went begging. The game ended a draw – perhaps a moral defeat! – but the Padua players must be given great credit. The girls can take many positives from the game – all giving 100% effort, White with a player of the match performance, Bellagamba solid in defence, May with a pleasing debut and Sapphire a jewel at times in midfield! Next up is an away trip to St Johns.

Wakartschuk and Marli Tatham

Mr Broadley (coach)
Background on Catholic School Funding

28 February 2011

1. Figures reported in the Age purporting to be analysis by Mr Trevor Cobbold on Government funding for Catholic schools are misleading and wrong.
2. No Catholic school is over funded contrary to Mr Cobbold’s claims.
3. Like Government schools, Catholic schools pool government funding and distribute it to schools according to need.
4. This has been the practice for many years and we believe this is the best way to meet the needs of schools and students which can vary from year to year with changing circumstances.
5. The internal distribution of government funding helps all Catholic schools to meet the needs of students and their community.
6. System funding provides for disadvantaged students, students with a disability, indigenous students, refugees and rural and regional schools.
7. Catholic education strives to welcome students from every background and walk of life.
8. This involves charging modest fees to those who can afford them and helping those with little in the way of financial means.
9. Catholic schools have nothing to hide and nothing to fear from the real story of school funding being widely understood.
10. Detailed information on all funding sources for all Victorian Catholic schools has been available to the public on the website of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority <www.vrqa.edu.au/stateregister> for more than a year.
11. On average per student, Catholic schools in Victoria spend less than government schools.
12. In the most thorough reconciliation available Ernst & Young reported that education costs in Catholic schools are 93% of per student costs in government schools in Victoria.
13. 93% includes the fees paid by parents and any other sources of income that schools access such as fundraising.
14. Government funding per student for Catholic schools is a fraction of the funding available to government schools.
15. We estimate that total government funding to Catholic schools is less than 80% of the cost in government schools although this percentage varies between schools.
16. Mr Cobbold may be well intentioned, however, he is clearly a lobbyist for government schools at the expense of Catholic schools and appears to have little regard for appropriate funding support for all Australian students.

For further information please contact me on <director@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au> or 03 9267 0228.

Regards

Stephen Elder
Director of Catholic Education
Due to the Labour Day Holiday, the Uniform shop will CLOSED on Monday 14th March.

In lieu of the closure the shop will be open an additional day the following week (Wednesday 23rd March).

**CLOSED**  
Monday  14th March  
(Labour Day)

**OPEN**  
Monday  21st March  
Wednesday  23rd March

Normal opening Hours are Monday from 1pm to 5pm.

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The Rock is back for 2011!

Following the success of the Student Yearbook Publication Committee last year, the committee returns for an inspiring 2011.

An invitation is extended to a select group of students from years 7 – 12 to join the committee and make a significant contribution to the evaluation of the 2010 publication, in moving the magazine forward for the 2011 College Year.

Students will meet weekly after school from 3.30 to 4.30pm on Thursday afternoons to plan and produce articles, stories and reports for the College Yearbook – The Rock.

All interested students must attend a meeting this Friday at lunchtime in the Benedict Computer Lab at 1.25pm.

Mr. D.J. Stretch  
Editor of The Rock

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**ST. AGATHA’S NEWS**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** for Lent begin this Friday 11th March at 7pm in the Church and continue every Friday during Lent.

**LENTEN PROGRAM:** a Lenten program is an ideal way to spiritually prepare for Easter through prayer and reflection on the Gospels. If you would like to join a Lenten Group please place your details on the chart in the foyer under your preferred group and you will be contacted with further details. Groups will begin the program in the week beginning 14th March.

**COMBINED PARISHES CAR RAFFLE** – There are 4 cars and 11 further Prizes of Coles Myer Gift cards on offer in the amazing raffle! Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend. $2 each or $20 per book. Drawn 20th May. Vic Permit number 11605/10

**RAISE THE ROOF COMMITTEE** – A Garage Sale will be held on Saturday 19th March in the hall. We are seeking donations of goods, so if any parishioners have goods to donate please leave your details on the chart in the foyer or if they need picking up ring the Parish Office on 5996 1985. Also we need giftware suitable for prizes in our raffles, these can be handed in at the Piety Stall.

**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.

**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.

**TRANSPORT REQUIRED** – for a student to St. Peter’s College from the Avenue’s Estate off Thompson’s Road. Willing to contribute. Please call Wayne D’Silva on 0405 313 959.

Greg Nelson  
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE
ST. PETER’S COLLEGE

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

GUEST STAFF MEMBERS AT MEETINGS IN 2011

The meetings of the Association are conducted in a friendly but efficient manner. This gives time at each meeting for a staff member to share something of themselves and their life at the College.

All meetings commence 7.30pm in the Staffroom
Mrs Anita Carter holds the role of Director of Student Welfare at St. Peter’s College with over 20 years experience as School Counsellor and as a provider of pastoral programs within the secondary school setting. Mrs. Carter will talk about her role and experience working with young people with a particular focus on parenting tips and skills that assist with their development as they move through secondary school.

Ms. Kelly Larkin teaches students Personal Development Skills as part of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. As part of their program of studies the VCAL students will give an interactive presentation to the Parents and Friends Association outlining a week in the life of a VCAL student.

Anthony Banks was appointed Deputy Principal in charge of students in 2010. He has had a long career in Catholic Education including 15 years at Emmaus College in Burwood. Anthony will talk about the challenges and hopes for his new role.
Mrs Mary Murphy is our new Religious Education Leader at St Peter’s College. Mary has worked for the last 10 years at John Paul College in Frankston as the Director of Faith Development. She has qualifications in Clinical Pastoral Education, Theology and Spirituality. Mary has worked in four different Dioceses in Australia and has a wealth of experience in Catholic Education. The Parents and Friends meeting will be a good opportunity to introduce herself to the St Peter’s College Community.

Ms Marjorie Canal is a new member of staff from the Cranbourne East Campus of St Peter’s College. She teaches English and Religious Education to our Year 7 students and has extensive experience teaching English in Mauritius and Allied Health in the TAFE system. Marjorie will lead us on a tour of the new Cranbourne East Campus and talk about the challenges that a new school environment provides.

Ms Shannon Maher is the Careers Co-ordinator at St Peter’s College and also teaches Biology to our year 11 students. Tonight she will talk on a Social Justice Immersion Project which has been initiated in 2011. In December of this year Shannon will lead a party of 5 year 12 students to Bishop Epalle Catholic School in the Solomon Islands. We hope this will be the beginning of an educational partnership between the two schools in the years ahead. Shannon will talk about the aims of the program and some of the activities she and the students will be involved in later this year.

Members of the Executive of the Parents & Friends Association may be contacted through the College Office.
Be Not Afraid

St Peter's