FROM THE PRINCIPAL

COMBINED SCHOOLS CARNIVAL
Last Thursday our VCAL students assisted with the running of the Combined Schools Carnival, a fundraiser for our local primary schools St Agatha’s and St Therese’s. Our students were a credit to themselves, their families and our school and I thank them very much for their demonstrated generosity and spirit which helps to build community. I also applaud VCAL Coordinator Mr Mark Sinclair and the other VCAL staff for their creativity in constructing curriculum that not only engages our students but also allows them to meet the outcomes of their course.

BOOK IN A DAY
Over the weekend Ms Tracy Lockley staged the inaugural book in a day for students connected with the gifted and talented network for the Diocese of Sale. Students from Lavalla College in Taralgon and St Peter’s split into teams of 10 with the task of completing a 10'000 word short story by the end of the day. Students ranged in age from year 7 to year 11 and attacked the task with great enthusiasm, passion and creativity. I congratulate the students who participated and encourage them to continue to make the most out of their God given talents. I also acknowledge Ms Lockley, Mrs Ziino and Mrs Gunovich who have been instrumental in creating programs and opportunities which extend our students particularly in the area of creative writing.

STAFFING
It is with some sadness that I announce the departure of Mrs Clare Ziino at the end of term 1 this year. Mrs Ziino has been the head of the Special Programs Department at St Peter’s over the last 5 years and has been outstanding in the service she has provided to all members of our community both students, parents and staff. She will be taking up a position at St Bridget’s Primary School in Mordialloc as the Welfare Co-ordinator which will allow her to move into a part time role. I wish her every success at St Bridget’s and thank her on behalf of this community for her tireless work over the last 5 years. The Special Programs Co-ordinator role will be advertised in the Age this Saturday.

Parents & Friends Association

Next Meeting
Tuesday 29th March
7.30pm
In the Staffroom
Guest Presenter – Mrs. Anita Carter, Director of Student Welfare

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Please note that Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on the final two days of Term 1, Thursday 7 April (4.00 – 8.30) and Friday 8 April (9.00 – 1.00pm). More details will follow over the coming weeks with regard to this important opportunity for Teachers and Parents to discuss student progress.

HELP YOUR CHILDREN
Many of us are feeling shocked and helpless in the face of a string of natural disasters around the world. The college community has prayed for many within our country who have been impacted by floods in both Queensland and Victoria. More recently, our hearts and prayers have extended to those in New Zealand and Japan as we hear of their fear and devastation. These events can prompt feelings of confusion, doubt and fear. At the same time, we hear of tremendous hope, resilience and generosity of spirit on the part of survivors and those assisting. Our faith also asks us not to lose heart but to stand with others in their suffering, confident in God’s love. As teachers, and perhaps also as parents we are aware that our young people are absorbing some disturbing images in the media. They may have questions, they may not be able to maintain a balanced perspective in the face of such events – they may need an opportunity to raise this with us as adults. As we try to process what has been taking place, let us be mindful that students themselves are likely to be involved in a similar process. This week we include some wisdom from Parent Educator Michael Grose, who has some useful tips for assisting young people in times of natural disasters. I commend it to you.

HELP YOUR CHILDREN MAKE SENSE OF NATURAL DISASTERS
Michael Grose

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

The Queensland floods and the Victorian floods wreak incredible havoc on so many people’s lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. These two natural disasters have been
brought into our living rooms via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this. So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

3. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

4. Support children’s concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

5. Let them explore feelings beyond fear. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

6. Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish. Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.

7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time. The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

8. Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

9. Take action yourself. Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

More. During the evening the traditional talent night and disco held with plenty of enjoyment for all. The morning of the last day saw frantic packing and cleaning of rooms, not to mention the claiming of lost property which seemed to go on forever. However, before we knew it, we were back out on the course completing the last rotations of activities of the camp. After lunch it was time to board the buses back to St Peter’s College, where the stories from the camp had already begun.

SRC AND FORUM LEADERS

In the lead up to camp, elections were held for our student representatives for this year. I am happy to announce our student representatives for 2011.

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

At last Tuesday’s Whole School Assembly, the Student Representative Council from Years & to 11 were announced and acknowledged.

It gives me great pleasure to say that the following students will form the Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2011:

Year 7-Cranbourne East-Natasha Pineda, Ben James
Year 7-Cranbourne West-Matt Simpson, Kerena McNeely
Year 8-Nathan Martens, Meg Horlock
Year 9-Jenna Edwards, Dwayne Michael
Year 10-Matt Schweiger, Jayde Kelly
Year 11-Tyson Tifere, Katherine Li
Year 12-Bronwyn McNees, Todd Roscoe, Mandy Magias, Jack Minton, Alisha Mascurine, Jackson Barfoot, Fosio Dunlop, Brittany Hay, Helen Katsimalis, Christopher Brooking

The SRC have all had some form of Formal training, with the Year 7 to 11 SRC having a one period intensive session on the role of the SRC last Monday ( Please see the attached photo of the session), The first SRC meeting for the year was held yesterday at lunchtime, with the emphasis on preparing for Harmony Day, which is being held on Tuesday 5th of April. More information about Harmony Day will be given in the next newsletter. The SRC will now meet on a fortnightly basis.

The following students have been elected to be the Forum Representatives for their respective Year Levels. These groups are the voice for their respective Home Rooms and meet as a Year Level Forum every fortnight. The Forum Representatives will be formally recognised and will receive their badges at Year Level Assemblies in the last week of term One.

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YEAR SEVEN FORUM REPRESENTATIVES:
Cranbourne East: 7G – Michael Wilson
7H – Will Veenan
7I – Shantelle Lazarus
Cranbourne West: 7A- Nicholas Russo and Rachel Williams, 7B- Ashley Lowe and Dean Spring, 7C-Matthew Simpson and Karen Mc Neely, 7D- Nathan Blaney and Deirdre Peterson, 7E- Natalie Cerda-Lizama and Rossi Halipilias, 7F- Chelsea Price and Seth Gregory.

YEAR EIGHT FORUM REPRESENTATIVES:
8A- Ryan Trost and Renee Wood, 8B- Dillon Harridge and Natasha Gubic, 8C-Mitchell Halsted and Meg Horlock, 8D- Devon Kaluarachi and Natasha Rahilly, 8E Nathan Martens and Breanne Ashwood, 8F Zak Roscoe and Olwyn Mckenna.
YEAR NINE FORUM REPRESENTATIVES:
9A- Dwayne Michael and Brianna Grigg, 9B- Jenna Edwards and Daniel Letelier, 9C- Tim Schreurs and Sandreen Harridge, 9D- John Turabian and Rebecca McInnes, 9E- Sebastian Legaie and Brooke Poulter, 9F- Deanna Parisi and Michael Mammon

YEAR TEN FORUM REPRESENTATIVES:
10A-Jayde Kelly and Tyrell Lazarus, 10B- Taylor Piggott and Amber Price, 10C- Nicholas Lekakis and Shaeilli Kelly, 10D- Angelyn Leanna Morelli and Matt Schwieger, 10E- Tishanna Barbier and Mitchell Zuijdijijk, 10F- Ben Jackman and Gracia Lokeni

YEAR ELEVEN FORUM REPRESENTATIVES:
11A- Amanda Haaj and Curtis Moses, 11B- Marissa Shami and Alex Letelier, 11C- Samantha Georges and Rodney Pasura, 11D- Trista Tabuena and Zac Cross, 11E- Katherine Li and Blake Jans, 11F- Emily Neeson and Tyson Tifere

We wish all of the above leaders all of the best in these most important roles.

Mr Anthony Banks
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL-STUDENTS

SPORTS NEWS

ST PETERS SWIMMING CARNIVAL
RECORD BREAKERS:
As you know, the St Peters Swimming Carnival was held a month ago, now that all results have been finalised I would like to congratulate the following students who recorded new record times in the following events:
Matthew Shaw U/13 50m freestyle 30.28s
Sam Russo U/15 50m freestyle 27.92s
U/15 50m backstroke 32.08s
U/15 50m breaststroke 39.07s
U/15 50m butterfly 31.82s
Skye Brennan U/17 50m butterfly 35.62s
Jordan Stewart U/16 50m butterfly 30.54s

SIS SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Last Wednesday night, a team of 42 students travelled to Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre for the annual SIS Division A Swimming Carnival. All students are to be commended on their fine efforts and behaviour on the night. A special congratulation must go to the U/15 boys team (Sam Russo, Brody Glession, Liam Trebilco and Nathan Cester) who placed first overall and were awarded a pennant for their efforts.

The following students achieved fantastic results by placing first in the following events:
Matthew Shaw U/13 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle,
Brody Glession U/15 50m freestyle
Skye Brennan U/21 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly
Brandon Trebilco U/17 50m breaststroke, U/15 Male 4x50m freestyle

Overall, St Peters placed in 5th position, only a narrow 4 points behind 4th position. This means St Peters will continue to swim in Division A in 2012. Congratulations everyone!

Justin DeGoldi - SPORTS MANAGER

The shooting arm of Jess Cottrell has been a great weapon around the goal, and Caitlyn Langdon’s height in the backline has resulted in many unwanted turnovers for the opposition. The final match of the fixture will be held at Padua Rosebud in two weeks time. Keep up the great work girls.

Round 3 Match Scores: St Peters defeated St Leonards 18 - 2
Goal scorers: Kaitlyn Wakartschuk 7, Cristin Daly 6, Jess Cottrell 3, Deanna Parisi 1, Breannon Sutton 1.

Round 4 Match Scores: St Peters defeated Woodleigh 15 - 3
Goal Scorers: Kaitlyn Wakartschuk 8, Deanna Paris 2, Breannon Sutton 2, Cristin Daly 1, Jess Cottrell 1, Claudia Parisi 1.

BOYS INTERMEDIATE HANDBALL
Saint Peters defeated Saint Francis Xavier 21/15 in Round Three.

The game was of a very high standard with Saint Peters taking control in the second half. Nick Lekakis and Kane Sring both scored five goals. Our defence is improving each game and Tom Burt is learning quickly about goalkeeping. Jack Keen is improving each week and his passing off is providing lots of opportunities for the team.

- Roger Hampson - COACH

SENIOR BOYS SOCCER

We faced Woodleigh in our third round fixture on a lush St. Peter’s pitch. Luke De Paoli was a late withdrawal from the game due to hamstring tightness and this threatened to throw our midfield into disarray. However superb leadership and skill from Cam Bryden ensured that we maintained our structures all day and set up another well-earned victory. 4-1 was the final score and we will be desperate to get Luke back in the team for tomorrow’s game against John Paul College.

- Mr. Brown – COACH

WARNING SIGNS

City of Casey School Crossing Unit would like to remind all drivers of the following signs which are often located around schools and nearby. We will be closely monitoring the habits of drivers over the coming months.

We would also like to remind you it is an offence to double park near a school. This means you can not legally pull up next to parked cars and let children in or out of the vehicle.

We thank you for your co operation

It’s the safety of the children that really matters

40km/h sign - All school speed limits across the State are clearly signposted. Look out for the speed signs near schools and slow down to improve safety for children.

Children Crossing - When the flags are displayed at a children’s crossing, you must stop for pedestrians who are waiting to cross or who have started crossing. You must remain stopped until the crossing is clear. These rules apply even if there is no crossing supervisor.

No Parking - It is important that you don’t park in any area where this sign is displayed.

No Stopping - No stopping means you must not stop at the kerb for any reason.

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

ZUMBA NIGHT – A fun Zumba Night organized by the Parish Youth Groups to raise money for World Youth Day pilgrims will be held on Friday 29th April at 7.00pm in the hall.

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE
A Lenten Reflection
Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.
Give up pessimism – become an optimist.
Give up harsh judgments – think kindly thoughts.
Give up worry – trust Divine Providence.
Give up discouragement – be full of hope.
Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred – return good for evil.
Give up negativity – be positive.
Give up anger – be more patient.
Give up pettiness – become mature.
Give up gloom – enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
Give up jealousy – pray for trust.
Give up gossiping – control your tongue.
Give up sin – turn to virtue.
Give up giving up – hang in there

Mary B Murphy
Religious Education Leader

BOOK-IN-A-DAY
On Saturday, 19 March, two teams of keen writers from St Peter’s and a team from Lavalla, met at the college to do battle in the Book-in-a-Day tournament. The teams worked furiously from the time the writing prompts were given at 10:00am until sunset, some of them even refusing to break for lunch. When they did take short breaks, it was to play chess with the giant set in the courtyard and one team kidnapped one of the black pawns as a mascot for an hour or two.

By sunset, 32,329 words had been written by the three teams and the contestants enjoyed a delicious barbecue cooked by our own Mr. Hogan. The English Department supplied prizes: a handsome leather-bound journal to the individual writer with the highest word tally on the day, Beth Gleeson (2,751 words!) and two fun prizes of a pair of movie tickets each to the person who guessed closest to the final word count and a general knowledge question about astronomy.

Congratulations to all the participants on a job well done and we look forward to term 2 when the Year 7 and 8 students will read-and-rate their favourites so that we can announce the winning team on June 17.

- Tracy Lockely

CAPTAIN’S REPORT
The environment is a huge part of our lives; it’s where we play, learn and grow so it is only natural that we take on our roles as stewards and respect the land from which we came. This Saturday, the 26th of March the World Wildlife Fund is holding the event EARTH HOUR, where lights are turned off for an hour, from 8.30 to 9.30pm to encourage the reduction of the carbon foot print we have on the planet. As Environment Captain I hope to make everyone aware of the issues of the environment and how we can make our own difference in making St. Peter’s College, and the world we live in a greater place. I will be open for any suggestion in how you think we can improve our approach to the environment. Why not start off with something simple like Earth Hour and just remember, the power is yours to make a difference.

Jackson Barfoot
ENVIRONMENT CAPTAIN

MEDIA EXCURSION
Last Wednesday, the Yr 11 and 12 Media students attended the ACMI Disney exhibition and VCAA Top Screens - Season of Excellence. The Disney Exhibition showed the technical development of animation through famous fairytales. I really liked the display about the Multi-plane camera, which showed you how they used to film animated movies before CGI. Top Screens gave us the opportunity to see the best Yr 12 Media films from 2010. The most enjoyable film for me was "Untitled Screenplay" which incorporated lots of different genres and was very funny!
SOUTHERN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS PRESENTS...

THE BIG NIGHT

SHOW STARTS 7.30PM

APRIL 5th
DRUM THEATRE
226 LONSDALE ST
DANDENONG

TICKETS $15

TICKETS AVAILABLE
PHONE 9771 6666