FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I attach this tribute by long serving staff member Pat Grant in honour of Keith Burns our former maintenance man who passed away on Wednesday the 23rd of August at age 81.

Vale Keith Burns (9-8-1930 ~ 23-3-2011)

Last week, the St. Peter’s College community lost a wonderful contributor to the school and to the wider world. Keith Burns was our maintenance man, bus driver, mentor to staff and supporter of students who were in need of his assistance. He never wavered in his commitment to those in need. His infectious smile and amazing patience made him a friend to all. He did all these jobs whilst he kept close contact with a very large extended family, and he worked tirelessly for the Rotary Club.

Deepest sympathy goes to his wife Shirley and to all of his family. Keith’s was a life very well lived.

COLLEGE BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the annual general meeting of the College Board on the 3rd of May the terms of two of our Parent Representatives will expire. Mrs. Pauline Hunt is ineligible for re-election as she no longer has children at St Peter’s for the first time in 20 years. This situation also applies to Mr. Peter Dam and I thank them both for their fine service to the College Board and our community.

In accordance with the constitution Mr. Robert Carboon and Mr. Stephen Van Der Velden are understood to be entering the second year of their two year term as parent representatives.

Nominations for the two vacant Parent Representatives on the College Board will open as of today and close on the 10th of April. Nomination forms are available from the college office until the end of term and from St Agatha’s Parish office until the 9th of April. All nomination forms should be submitted to the Parish Office which is open from 8.30am to 3pm Monday to Friday.

In accordance with the constitution of the College Board, the newly elected parent representative must be a member of the St Agatha’s Parish Community and have a son or daughter enrolled at the college.

Polling if necessary will take place at Parish Masses on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of April.

Tim Hogan
Principal

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

This week all families will receive notification in the mail regarding the process for Parent Teacher Interviews next week. I encourage all families to enter the site, via the college website, and arrange meeting times with the teachers of your sons and daughters. Please note that interview times are of a 5 minute duration and staff will make every attempt to run to time. If you are running late, or are unable to attend at the last minute, please contact the college so that the sessions can run as smoothly as possible. All teachers welcome these opportunities to meet with parents of their students to discuss progress and opportunities for best performance.

Please note:

- Students are asked to accompany their parents to these interviews
- Students choosing to remain in their uniform (Thursday session only) are required to wear their full school uniform, unless changing completely.
- Friday 8 April is a STUDENT FREE DAY – no classes will be held but students are asked to accompany parents to appointment times
- Students are asked to bring their Student Record Book with them to interviews

We look forward to meeting with many families next week.

Elizabeth Hanney
Deputy Principal
Captain’s Report

HARMONY DAY

Next week on Tuesday the 5th of April, St. Peter’s College is celebrating the well-known and exciting event, Harmony Day. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the cultural diversity that exists within our school community. Not only do students have the chance to learn and appreciate the heritage of their fellow classmates, but they are also given the opportunity to represent their own culture with great pride.

Students are encouraged to dress up in national costumes and will have the chance to show off their unique style at the national dress parade. Traditional foods will also be available during recess and lunchtime for students to experience the range of delicious cuisines. As for entertainment, the lunch time concert and teachers vs. students soccer match will not disappoint! Don’t forget that all money raised will be donated to Caritas, so come along and make the most of this enjoyable day!

Mandy Magias
COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN

Gambare Nippon!!

Translation:
“Good Luck/ Hang in there Japan!!”

In light of the recent tragic events which have struck Japan, the Japanese flag will be flown in the final week of this term, as a sign of our support for our friends and family in Japan. On Harmony Day there will be a number of opportunities to raise funds to contribute to the relief efforts in Japan via Caritas.

So, start saving up those gold coins!

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TRIP

Applications for the Central Australia trip close Monday 4th April at 3.30pm.

For information and Applications please see Ms Goss

ROAD SAFETY !!

The Yr 11 Media students are currently preparing their RACV “Transmission” entries for 2011. Here are some important messages from the students for all road users in our school community:

Have you ever been distracted whilst driving? Was that distraction a passenger?

Well did you know that 20% of injury crashes are caused by passenger distractions? Clearly, that lead to destruction! Passengers are one of the main causes for major road accidents. It's simple; when you’re driving, take initiative and don’t let them distract you. It’s their lives... and yours. So just remember, distractions lead to destruction.

Kate Hunter, Isabelle Bangard & Cheryll Pereira

Mobile phones are now part of our life. But they are also becoming a problem for our lives. Research shows drivers are four times more likely to be in a crash if they are talking on the phone. When you answer the phone your mind is not driving anymore. This makes drivers have slower reaction times, difficulty maintaining an appropriate speed, and are less aware of what is going on around them.

People, especially teenagers, also use their mobile phones to send and receive text messages which is worse, because drivers who text message when driving spend much less time looking at the road. Furthermore, some drivers use the hands free which is less dangerous, but, the fact of having a conversation with other person is distracting.

So, the best option is to turn off your phone before you start driving or pull over safely to the side of the road when you receive a call. You’ll make the roads safer for everyone!

Mercedes Martinez-DiCarlo - Yr 11

Japan Study Tour 2011
Parent Information Evening

Date: Wed April 8th
Venue: Library Seminar Room 1
Time: 7 - 8pm
Refreshments provided
Swinburne University Art and Design Discovery Day:
Swinburne’s Art and Design Discovery Day is a chance for you to find out more and get a hands-on feel for a range of TAFE and university courses in art and design. You'll get to take part in interactive workshops, get your hands dirty, and have a chance to ask all your burning questions in the information session. The day also gives you a chance to explore the Prahran campus and surrounding area to get a feel for what it's like to be a Swinburne student.

When: Thursday, 21 April
Where: Swinburne University - Prahran campus

School holiday programs at Zoos Victoria: All 3 locations, Melbourne, Werribee and Healesville, offer several holiday programs for school students. You can be a ranger/zookeeper for a day, attend careers workshops and meet and talk to the keepers. If you are interested please visit the website for more information. http://www.zoo.org.au/holidays

Moonlit Sanctuary Easter School Holidays Young Ranger Program: Environmental Activities, Native Animal Care, Fun and Games during EASTER 2011.
When: Monday 11th, Wednesday 13th, Friday 15th, Monday 18th, Wednesday 20th April.
Hours: 10AM – 3PM
Cost: $39.00 per day, or $105 for 3 days. Bookings essential - suitable 8-14 years.
Wear: closed-toe shoes and long pants and remember your hat. Lunches: BYO or available for $7.50
Where: Moonlit Sanctuary, 550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale
Ph. 5978-7935,
Open daily between 10am and 5pm

Shannon Maher
CAREERS COORDINATOR

SPORTS NEWS

VICTORIAN SCHOOL SPORTS SELECTION TRAILS
Students attending schools affiliated with SSV (St Peters is affiliated) are eligible for selection in Victorian Teams to compete in 2011 School Sport Australia National Championships. Information on national events can be found at the School Sport Victoria website, www.ssv.vic.edu.au, or the School Sport Australia website, www.schoolsport.edu.au.

Nominations for the following sports close by:

Australian Football
15 & Under Boys
15 & Under Girls

Swimming – 10 to 19 Years

Basketball
18 & Under Boys and Girls

To register for these and all other trials, go to the SSV website at www.ssv.vic.edu.au and click on Interstate Teams for further details.

SIS SENIOR GIRLS SOCCER VS NAZARETH
The girls began the Semi-Final against Nazareth knowing a tough challenge lay ahead – made even more difficult by the torrential rain which battered the pitch relentlessly. After a hesitant start the girls found themselves 2-0 down, before the heart-beat of the team Katsimalis finally sprang to life. A barnstorming run for the first goal was followed by a ice cool penalty to restore parity. As fatigue set in towards the end of the half Nazareth netted again to take the lead to 2-3 at the interval. It was then that Bellagamba realised the magnitude of the situation, as it dawned on her that “there are no hair-dryers in the school” ! The team, resembling 14 drowned rats, were sent out for the restart with a tactical switch of goalkeeper – O’Brien taking the position between the sticks. Little did she know of the drama that would subsequently unfold. Katsimalis completed her hat-trick to level and then the teams locked horns in a ferocious dual, displaying the passion of a Merseyside or Glasgow derby. With only minutes remaining pop star Taylah Alanis ghosted in at the far post to fire home – as the ball nestled in the onion bag, the girls celebrated wildly for what would surely be the winner. To Nazareth’s credit however, they upped the ante again and after striking the crossbar slotted home the rebound to take the game to the dreaded PENALTY SHOOT-OUT! With some hard-core supporters braving the downpour and Chairman DeGoldi watching from his Oval Office (perhaps akin to Roy Keane’s reference to the ‘Prawn Sandwich Brigade’) the lottery began. 2-2 after the first five (Katsimalis and O’Brien taking the position between the sticks. Little did she know of the drama that would subsequently unfold. Katsimalis completed her hat-trick to level and then the teams locked horns in a ferocious dual, displaying the passion of a Merseyside or Glasgow derby. With only minutes remaining pop star Taylah Alanis ghosted in at the far post to fire home – as the ball nestled in the onion bag, the girls celebrated wildly for what would surely be the winner. To Nazareth’s credit however, they upped the ante again and after striking the crossbar slotted home the rebound to take the game to the dreaded PENALTY SHOOT-OUT! With some hard-core supporters braving the downpour and Chairman DeGoldi watching from his Oval Office (perhaps akin to Roy Keane’s reference to the ‘Prawn Sandwich Brigade’) the lottery began. 2-2 after the first five (Katsimalis and White scoring), took it into sudden death. Nazareth scored and the girls looked lost – until Bellagamba displayed nerves of steel (like the girders holding the now famous hair-do together) and placed her shot in the far corner. Again Nazareth netted and this time it proved the knockout blow. Of all England’s penalty shoot out losses, this was by far the hardest to take. The girls deserve massive credit (especially considering the conditions) and can hold their heads up proudly of the performance the put in. So close, yet so far !

Mr Broadley
COACH
The Gospel of last Sunday was the story of the Samaritan Woman who met Jesus at the well (Jn 4:5-52). Although this is quite a well known Gospel, it seems to me that it has a lot to say about the aims of Catholic Education. It speaks strongly I believe about the role of parents in educating their children in the ways of faith and also about the aims of Catholic schools.

When young people today say that they can see no point in religion, this can mean that they have not experienced a family response to the Word of God. It can also mean that they may have chosen to put other priorities in place due to peer pressure or whatever.

People of all ages are thirsting for something to believe in, something that makes sense and brings peace. In the Gospel this week Jesus says that if we drink from a well we will become thirsty again but if we drink of the water which He will give, we will never thirst again. He says the water He will give will become a spring of living water that will well up inside us and never run out. He is of course talking of the living water which is the Word of God.

During Lent we have various Liturgies for the students to help them understand the place of God in our lives, our ordinary daily lives. We have the ‘Stations of the Cross ‘to bring to life in our school the importance of the Passion of Jesus and the great feast of Easter. These are important things for us to do as a Catholic School and very worthwhile, but as you have heard me say before, nothing is so effective in matters of faith than the example of parents and family. The Easter Triduum which begins on Holy Thursday Night is a wonderful time for all of us to reflect on our faith, on our life and what the life, death and resurrection of Jesus means for us.

Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent, this time goes so quickly let’s make the most of it. It is good to ponder on the water of life and haw we need the refreshing life giving gift of God. If we have it let’s share it, if we haven’t, lets look for it.

FOR REFLECTION
As we pray in the psalms “My soul thirsts for you like a dry weary land without water..”
Lord give us the gift of living water that we may not thirst. We pray that we may come to know you more and that we celebrate the feast of the Resurrection with joy!

Deacon Tony Aspinall
COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

FR. DARIUSZ Jablonski – An official welcome to Fr. Dariusz Jablonski will be given at the 10.30am Mass next Sunday 3rd April, with morning tea and an opportunity to greet him in St Agatha’s Hall following the Mass. (Parishioners are asked to please bring a plate of morning tea to share).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Will be held every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church.

SACREMENT OF RECONCILIATION – The Parish of St. Agatha’s congratulates the children who are making their First Reconciliation on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday this week. Please pray for the children and their parents.

LECTORS AND EUCHARIST MINISTERS – Beginning from the Mass on Holy Thursday, the opportunity to receive Holy Communion from the Chalice at our Parish Masses will be restored. This will require further Special Ministers for the Eucharist to be available, and so we are inviting parishioners to please forward their name to the Parish office so that new rosters can be made. Those wishing to become readers at Mass are also invited to submit their name. There will be a training session for new Lectors and Special Ministers on Tuesday 12th April at 7.30 in the Church. New rosters for the month of April are available for our current ministers and lectors from the foyer after Mass. All new ministers and lectors will be put on the next roster which will be available from the foyer at the end of April.

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

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.

“ASHES TO EASTER” CONCERT – Songs, stories & reflections by Peter Kearney Wednesday 30th March, 7.30pm Don Bosco Primary School Hall 496 Princess Hwy, Narre Warren. Donations welcome.

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE