FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Feast of the Ascension

Over the weekend the feast of the Ascension was celebrated to commemorate the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven. This event took place at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and I include this picture sent to me by our former Religious Education Leader Ms. Bernadette Tolan who was at this site over the weekend. The ascension points to Christ’s nature as both perfect man and perfect God whose unity with God provides evidence of a promise and a pathway for all humanity.

World Refugee Day

Each year the United Nations commemorates World Refugee Day on 20th June to highlight the plight of refugees worldwide and recognise their courage and resilience. This year they are using the theme of, “1 refugee without hope is too many,” in the hope that people will reflect on how they can join UNHCR in helping the more than 10 million refugees around the world who have lost everything. At an assembly earlier this year John Galzari spoke to our students on Harmony Day about his life as a refugee from Afghanistan. John spent 5 years in a detention centre before gaining permanent residency, further educating himself and starting his own real estate business in Dandenong. Courage and resilience are traits that John demonstrated many times in his journey but without hope I am not sure he would have persevered. In the current debate on asylum seekers we can easily lose sight of the need to give people hope for a better future. The Church has long expressed a view that we have an obligation to welcome those who find themselves in these circumstances; World Refugee Day is an opportunity to support those like John Galzari who look to this country for a hope filled future.

Parents and Friends Meeting – Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Parents and Friends Association will take place next Tuesday Night on the 14th of June at 7.30 pm in the staffroom. The guest speaker for this meeting will be Mr. Anthony Banks who was appointed to the position of 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. Mr. Banks will reflect on his journey in teaching and the challenges and hopes for his new leadership role.
さようなら Mako, Yumi & Isuzu-san

This Friday we farewell our 3 Exchange Students from Japan. Mako, Yumi and Isuzu have spent the past 3 months, participating in a long term exchange at the college. During their stay they have:

- attended the “Big Night Out” SIS Concert in Dandenong
- cheered on the College’s SIS Intermediate girls soccer team against Beaconhills College
- played basketball with one of the local domestic teams
- attended a day at Kangan Batman TAFE College with one of their host sisters, a Yr 11 VCAL student.
- participated in Harmony Day by dressing up in Kimono, cooking gyoza and writing student’s names in Japanese as part of the day’s fundraising efforts.
- celebrated an 18th birthday which included being serenaded by the very talented Taylor Piggot and friends in Yr10

Thank you to all of the families who have done such a wonderful job of hosting the girls during their stay. Thank you also to the teachers and students that have made them feel at home at our school.

Mrs. Kugimiya
Exchange Co-ordinator

VCE EXAMS & GAT

The VCE Units 3 & 4 mid-year examinations and General Achievement Test (GAT), will take place next week. These days will be student free for all Unit 3 and 4 VCE students in Year 12. VCAL Year 12 will continue as normal. Year 11 students studying a Unit 3-4 sequence may also have a study day on their examination day, and the Thursday (GAT). Year 11 students may choose to return to normal scheduled class on their examination day if they wish to.

Students undertaking the subjects Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology will have mid-year examinations, on Tuesday 14th June and Wednesday 15th June, whilst all students studying a Unit 3 & 4 subject will complete the GAT on Thursday 16th June.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14 June</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:45 am</td>
<td>Biology Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:45 – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Physics Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:45 – 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Accounting Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15 June</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:45 am</td>
<td>Psychology Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:45 – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Chemistry Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:45 – 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Environmental Science Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 June</td>
<td>10:00 am – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>General Achievement Test (GAT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two weeks ago students received their personal VCAA examination timetable. This sheet also contains their VCAA Student Number, which they will need for their examinations and for the GAT - (this number will be supplied to each student again on the day of their examination).

Students should read these details carefully and ensure that they are familiar with all of the VCAA rules and regulations as outlined in the VCE Exams Navigator 2011 that was also provided to them. If they have misplaced their copy of this booklet, it can be accessed via the VCAA website at the address:


Students should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to each examination and at least 30 minutes prior to the GAT. All examinations will be held in the Multipurpose Hall (including the GAT). No student can afford to be late.

Students must remember to have all necessary equipment with them for their examinations. For example: pens, pencils, rulers, calculators etc. Mobile phones and other unauthorised electronic equipment are NOT allowed into the examination venue. Students may bring bottled water as long as it is in a clear, non-labelled bottle.

Mr Barry Fisher
Senior Years Curriculum Leader

PARENTS & FRIENDS

ST PETER’S DAY – The Parents and Friends Association is calling out for volunteers to assist with the preparation and delivery of a BBQ lunch for all students on St. Peters Day. If you can spare an hour or so around lunchtime on Tues 28th June, we would love to see you. The only required skills are to turn a snag on the BBQ and to serve the students their sausages and drinks. Please call Helen on 0400574103 if you would be able to help.

Helen Schwieger – PFA secretary
SIS Intermediate Girls Soccer vs SFX (home)

With 2 late withdrawals, midfield engine Wakartschuk arriving late due to Exams and Marotta/Machaya taking an eternity to apply their mascara and lippy, the girls kicked off against SFX knowing a much tougher assignment lay ahead than the previous weeks dismantling of John Paul. Having fired blanks in the last outing, Pallant retained her spot up front and was busy early on – finishing a Tatham cross with a clean first time strike to score the opener. This was reminiscent of Roberto Baggio in his prime and the Azzurri influence was also seen in the no-nonsense approach of the Parisi girls at the back, resembling Baresi and Maldini at their best. As the bell sounded for lunch, a whole host of boys came to support the girls (including Mascot/Linesman Lekakis finally deciding to turn up).... or perhaps having heard of the Italian influence, to see if Totti was on the pitch! Having learnt the lessons from the Padua defeat the girls were given the instructions to retain full concentration and be clinical in the 2nd half. Another fine display followed and the result was rarely in doubt – Pallant providing the icing on the cake with a tap in even she couldn’t fail to convert. Other notable performances came from Tatham who was competitive in midfield, McInnes who slotted in well to defence and Machaya who always seem calm and unrushed on the ball. The final game away at Nazareth next week is a huge match and the girls will have to be at their very best to get the result.

Mr Broadley
Coach

Lunchtime Sports!

Last week was the start of the junior school lunch time sports. With the help from the sports and house captains we were able to organise the year 7’s and 8’s mixed netball competition and get it underway in a fun and friendly manner with many students eager to get involved and play. The first round started extremely well, seeing red house put on a goal fest in the second half defeating blue house 13-2, and in the other match that was played in very close manner , gold house ended up sneaking away with the win defeating green house by 2 goals with the end score being 5-3. With another two more rounds to go let’s hope everyone gets involved and earn some points towards their house colour! Well done to everyone that participated and had a go!

Rebecca Stewart

Junior Boys Football

Last week we had our first home game as the team played host to John-Paul College. The boys were all keen to perform at their best for our own parochial supporters and further pressure was added with the late withdrawal of our skipper, Jayden Sullivan. He was keen to play but was overruled on medical grounds thanks to information soon to be published by Wikileaks, and purported to have been leaked from deep inside the ‘Oval Office’.

The first quarter and a half of football was tight with the two sides going goal for goal in a free-scoring and skilful opening. The backline was under constant pressure as John-Paul attacked repeatedly with running thrusts directed right through the centre of the ground. Mark Brittingham was outstanding across half-back and established himself as our key defender. His repeated intercepts proved to be the foundations upon which St Peter’s ascendancy was built. Tom Toner on a forward flank was also one of the more influential players and from the outset won much of the ball. By the end of the second quarter, however, St Peter’s had turned a four-point deficit into an eight-goal lead.

The second half was much more one-sided as St Peter’s piled on the goals in front of the lunchtime throng. As each additional goal was scored it became more difficult to determine the gleam of the players’ smiles from that of the new white shorts they sported. St Peter’s finished with another comprehensive victory – 18 goals 12 behinds (120) to 9 goals 5 behinds (59).

Players of note included, M. Brittingham, T. Toner, K. Newland, H. Harvey, B. Buntine, J. Doria and J. McLean. Goal scorers – J. Doria (6), K. Newland (3), T. Toner, H. Harvey and J. McLean (2) and singles to M. Keenan, C. Grant and J. Bate. Congratulations to the team on another victory resulting from the contributions of all players.

The selected team for this week’s game against Nazareth will participate in a training session on the Wednesday prior to the game, to be run by representatives of the Melbourne Football Club. We opted for a bruise-free program given the teams playing commitments the next day.

Justin Dee
Coach
Sunday 5th June was the Solemnity of the Ascension of The Lord. This of course signals the approaching end of the Easter Season, next week is Pentecost Sunday. The passage of Matthew’s Gospel that we heard on Sunday is the last four verses of this Gospel. It contains much for us to ponder. In these few verses we see Jesus claim all authority in heaven and on earth, He gives a command to the Disciples to go out to all nations and make Disciples in His name, and He reassures them of His eternal presence.

I had the great joy of celebrating a Baptism in St Peter’s Chapel on Sunday for the child of former students. Following that was the baptism preparation session at the parish for parents of children to be baptised in the coming weeks. It was certainly a marvellous day for baptisms given the words of the Gospel. I pointed out to the parents at the preparation session that we are being faithful to the Gospels when we hand on our faith to our children, when we present them for baptism.

In society today we see people who approach Jesus and His teachings with love, and we also see those who hesitate like some of the Disciples. Those who hesitate are not convinced, they are not sure if they want what Jesus offers. Many people are in that position today, both students and parents. How then do we arrive at that point of decision? It is certainly not a quick or easy thing but it is one of the most significant decisions we will ever make. As with any decision, before we can consider which way to go we need the facts.

First and foremost we are taught by the Word of God in the Scriptures. We are nourished by the Eucharist and we are supported and encouraged by the community of faith that we know as the Parish. If we are distant or disconnected from these things they cannot be an influence on our lives or our decisions. If we are distant or disconnected we cannot offer guidance or share our beliefs with our children. Of course parents give guidance in many ways, and parents are the first teachers of their children in matters of faith. It is this aspect that is frequently overlooked, the role of the parent in faith education, it is critical.

So as we look back on the Ascension of The Lord and look forward to Pentecost let us pray for a sharing in the tongues of fire, the power of the Holy Spirit that came upon the Apostles. Let us pray for a growing faith that we can hand on to our families.

Deacon Tony Aspinall
College Chaplain

Reflection.
John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but it is from the Father who sent me.”

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

YOUTH RETREAT – The youth of our Parish will attend a Retreat at Casa Palloti during the Pentecost long weekend in June. The aim is for Youth to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to reach out to the needy. If Youth would like to have a deeper relationship with Jesus, this retreat is for you. For info contact Sr. Mercy: 5996 1985.

THE MAN WHO WALKED ACROSS AMERICA WITH A SIX FOOT CROSS IS COMING! On Sun 19th June from 2-5pm in St. Agatha’s Church, Jim Murphy from the USA will be visiting and ministering in our parish. In 1992, inspired by the American Bishops’ letter Heritage and Hope, Jim undertook a 4200 mile journey on foot across America, carrying a 6ft. cross in an effort of prayer and evangelization. The journey took 18 months and 14 pairs of shoes. Contact the parish office or Peter on 5998 1554 or John on 0448 343 074 for info. All are welcome!

CALL & RESPONSE YOUTH CAMP - A 2 night school holiday camp for teenagers, invites young people to open up to God's call in their lives and to consider the many ways we can respond. Begins 7pm Wed 13th July, at St. Joseph's Parish, Iona, concluding 2.30pm Fri 15th July. Young people in Year 7 – 10 are invited. Reg forms can be found at: www.sale.catholic.org.au/youth/youth-events.html. Senior secondary student and young adult volunteers are invited to act as small group leaders during this camp, volunteers please contact Jess on 5126 1063 or jessd@sale.catholic.org.au

Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

Seeking Host Families
We have had a good response so far, but are still seeking families to host students from our sister school in Japan.
For dates and other details please email Mrs.Kugimiya: skugimiya@stpeters.vic.edu.au