Welcome Back Term 3

I welcome back all students to Term 3 after a restful break with family and friends. On Monday of this week teaching staff conducted an audit of our curriculum to ensure that all of our Year 7-10 courses and assessments reflect the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The audit certainly affirmed the content we were teaching at each year level but also gave teachers an opportunity to discuss the levels of achievement against VELS standards that were reported on at the end of Semester One. Some refinements will be made to courses and assessments over Semester Two as a result of the audit which will also assist in the implementation of the National Curriculum. The day was initiated by our Curriculum Leaders Chris Denny, Deborah Preston and Barry Fisher and our KLA Coaches and I thank them for their on-going professionalism and commitment to high standards of teaching and learning at the college.

Futures Evening and Middle School Selection Night

The process of subject selection for 2012 is upon us and I ask parents of Year 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 students to place the following dates in their calendar for these two important evenings:

August 1st – Middle School Subject Selection Evening (Year 8 & 9)
August 3rd – Futures Evening (Year 10, 11 & 12)

These two nights will begin the 2012 subject selection process for our students and their families. It is an important period for our students and one where they will learn of the many choices that are available to them including options in VET, VCAL, University Enhancement Studies and accelerated programs within the VCE. We understand how difficult this process can be for young people and have therefore targeted our Year 10 students this year for more intensive careers counselling interviews in the days following the future evening. Details of how parents of students in Year 10 will be able to access these interviews will be available at the Futures Evening.

I encourage all of our students to approach this time with an open mind and to take ownership of their subject selection process through a willingness to ask questions and research the options that are available to them. Teacher assistance and career guidance will be available on these two nights or through scheduled appointment via the front office. During the course of the school day students are encouraged to access the wealth of experience and knowledge that teachers have on the subject selection process via formal and informal meetings.

Congratulations

At the end of last term Lauren Halstead in Year 11 was nominated for the Emerging Athletes Program which is sponsored by the City of Frankston and local businesses. To be eligible you had to represent your sport at a State, National or International level. Lauren was lucky enough to represent Victoria at the National Interschool Equestrian Event last year in Sydney and won this competition in the Pre novice eventing section. Throughout the year there were 36 nominees from various sporting areas, all who had achieved high standards in their field. The culmination of this was that of the 36 nominees 12 would be selected to be awarded $1000 to help them in their endeavours. At the recent presentation night Lauren was fortunate enough to be selected as 1 of these 12 finalists and was the recipient of $500 from the City of Frankston and $500 from LifeCare Physiotherapy. On behalf of St. Peter’s I congratulate Lauren on this wonderful achievement.

Mr. Tim Hogan

PRINCIPAL
Term 3 commences with Staff Professional Learning Day

All staff undertook a full day of professional learning on Monday 18th July. The focus for the day was the ongoing work of VELS implementation at St. Peter’s, particularly in preparation for the arrival of the National curriculum, AUSVELS. This session was very ably led by Chris Denny, Director of Learning, Deb Preston and Barry Fisher, our Curriculum Leaders. In the afternoon, staff reflected on the coaching model which we have implemented this year. In coaching we seek to bring out the potential in others and to this extent it shares many qualities of good teaching practice. I shared with staff one definition of Coaching: Coaching is...“Unlocking a person’s potential to maximise their own performance. It is helping them to learn rather than teaching them.” (Whitmore, 2009)

In all that we do with coaching we are endeavouring to enable staff to be their best for the students with whom they work. Coaching enables staff to identify their goals for teaching improvement and supports them in achieving their goals and improving student outcomes. As I often am, I was struck today by the professionalism and commitment of staff seeking always to consider the quality of their teaching. Of course, the most important beneficiaries of this good practice are our students.

Monday marked International Nelson Mandela Day, on this the 93rd birthday of a great activist and campaigner for justice, equality and truth. I close with two quotes from Nelson Mandela which have something to say to us in our learning community:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue and pen, then you have something very special.”

As we begin a new term, staff reflected on our role in bringing our heads, hearts and hands to our work with the students at St. Peter’s.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hanney
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Parents & Friends association

Next Meeting:
Tuesday 26th July
7.30pm

In the Staffroom
Guest Presenter — Mrs. Mary Murphy, Religious Education Leader.

Pathways 2012

It is the time of year again when we ask students and parents to consider their future pathways and select subjects for the next school year. As has been the case in the past, there will be two evenings available for this process. The first evening is on Monday August 1st and will involve presentations and information regarding Year 8 and Year 9 students making subject selections for Years 9 and 10 respectively. The second evening is the ‘Futures Evening’ and provides information for Year 10 and 11 students moving into and progressing through VCE. The Futures Evening will allow students to see all subject offerings at the VCE level and speak to the teachers of VCE classes. At both evenings students will receive a Curriculum Handbook and a subject selection sheet.

This year we have also added an extra step for Year 10 students entering VCE. This step involves the opportunity for a ten minute interview for students and their parents, to assist them with their subject selections. These interviews will be held on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th August between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Sign-up sheets will be available for interview times at the Futures Evening. These booking sheets will also be available for parents to book interviews at the general office on the Thursday and Friday following the Futures Evening. We hope that this new initiative will provide another opportunity for both parents and students to be more confident with their pathway in VCE.

Mr. Chris Denny
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

ST PETERS DAY

On the 28th of June last Term, the College celebrated the Feast day of our Patron St Peter with our annual day of activities. Appropriately the day started with a College Mass, celebrated by Father Denis O’Bryan and Deacon Tony Aspinall.

Following this, the day was jam packed with activities for our students to participate in. The theme for the day was for students to “Be not Afraid” and participate in as many activities as they wanted to.

Each Year Level Forum Group organised an activity on the day for students and staff to participate in. These activities included face painting, golf challenge, minute to win it, footy challenge, snake stretch, apple bobbing, amazing race, student radio, and a handball challenge. The SRC also organised a number of activities through Auscorp Entertainment. These included a Bucking Bull, Human Gladiator and Human Fooseball. A BBQ lunch and soft drink was also supplied by the Parents and Friends Association. We thank them for their continued support.

The activities of the day concluded with the annual St Peters Talent Quest. This is always a highlight and this year was no exception, with the overall winner of the talent quest being Stephanie Li of Year 8.

All of the funds raised on the day (approximately $1700) will go to the Bishops Family Foundation. A big thank you to all involved in the day. A Photo Collage of the day’s activities is included in this Newsletter

Mr. Anthony Banks – Deputy Principal
St Peter’s Day - 28th June 2011
I have been searching for something special to write about for the beginning of this term. Nothing special comes to mind. At present there are no special feast days which grab my attention. We are in mid-winter and I sometimes I think the cold can dampen our spirits and we find it difficult to see through the fog of things we have to do. Even hunching our shoulders against the cold can perhaps block our receptiveness to what is actually being offered or what we are being invited to.

God never stops working in us and never stops calling out to us in the events of daily life no matter what our circumstances. It is good to remember that every day we are being invited to deepen and attend to our relationships with God, self, others and the world.

The following reflection from Benedictus: A Book of Blessings by John O’Donohue reminds us of the specialness of each day. Take some time to reflect on these words and imagine what God might be offering you.

**The Inner History of a Day**

No one knew the name of this day;  
Born quietly from deepest night,  
It hid its face in light,  
Demanded nothing for itself;  
Opened out to offer each of us  
A field of brightness that travelled ahead,  
Providing in time, ground to hold our footsteps  
And the light of thought to show the way.  
The mind of the day draws no attention;  
It dwells within the silence with elegance  
To create a space for all our words,  
Drawing us to listen inwards and outwards.  
We seldom notice how each day is a holy place  
Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens,  
Transforming our broken fragments  
Into an eternal continuity that keeps us.  
Somewhere in us a dignity presides  
That is more gracious than the smallness  
That fuels us with fear and force,  
A dignity that trusts the form a day takes.  
So at the end of this day, we give thanks  
For being betrothed to the unknown  
And for the secret work  
Through which the mind of the day  
And wisdom of the soul become one.

Mrs. Mary B Murphy  
Religious Education Leader

**Migrant and Refugee Sunday**

**Location:**
Our Lady Help of Christians Church  
496 Princes Highway  
Narre Warren 3805

**Date:** September 11, 2011  
**Time:** 2.00pm

After Holy Mass Multi-Cultural Cuisine  
Celebrated by Bishop Prowse  
**We are one body in this one Lord!**  
Ephesians 4:4-6

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) - Second Installment 2011**

The EMA is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled in a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2011 for installment 1 and 5 August 2011 for the second installment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must be enrolled on the first day of 1st Term (1st February 2011) for the first installment and on the first day of 3rd Term (18th July 2011) for the second installment:

Parents who were paid the EMA at the school that their children are still attending for the first installment of 2011, are not required to complete a new application for the second installment.

Parents who were paid EMA at a different school for the first installment of 2011, or parents who are claiming EMA as they have just become eligible, will need to complete an application form at the new school for the second installment.

EMA applications forms maybe collected from the College office  
Applications must be submitted to the College by 5th August 2011.

Mrs. Lynda Coombs  
Assistant Business Manager