East Africa Crisis Appeal

In this newsletter I promote the work of Caritas and the work they are doing in East Africa. People will no doubt be aware that the worst droughts in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and across East Africa in 60 years have left at least 10 million people in need of food, water and basic facilities. Half of those are children.

Caritas, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development is in the centre of this crisis and has been:
• providing supplementary feeding and food relief
• ensuring people have access to clean water to drink
• assisting families to maintain their livelihoods

To assist Caritas in this vital work they are doing people can donate online at http://www.caritas.org.au, phone toll free 1800 024 413 or alternatively send a cheque to: Caritas Australia, 24-32 O’Riordan St, Alexandria, Sydney 2015.

Staffing

I welcome to the staff of St. Peter’s College Delwyn Gillman who takes on the role of Food Technology Assistant recently vacated by Mrs. Virginia Urmston. Mrs. Urmston has been a valuable assistant to the food technology department over the last 8 years and ends a long association with the College where all of her children attended. I wish her well in her retirement where she hopes to have more time for a leisurely game of golf. I also welcome back this week Mr. Greg Nelson from his theological studies in Boston. Mr. Nelson received a bursary from the Diocese of Sale this year to further develop his knowledge of Religious Education and spirituality at the prestigious Boston Theological College.

Congratulations

I pass on our best wishes to Mrs. Angela LaRiccia and husband Nathan on the birth of daughter Sophie over the holidays as I do for Mrs. Anna Gebbing and husband Daniel on the birth of their son Mitch. All are doing famously.

Quick Action Saves Life

I thank the Year 8 Co-ordinator Mr. Roger Hampson for drawing to our attention the actions of Mark Brittingham, a student in Year Eight, who two weeks ago was officiating as a boundary umpire in a South East Juniors game when a 13 year old player from Narre Warren collapsed (later diagnosed from a heart attack) behind play. Mark quickly alerted the central umpire who stopped the game and alerted officials.

Paramedics praised Mark’s actions in that he acted quickly and with urgency to alert officials. They pointed out that every second was critical in assisting someone who has had a heart attack. They also pointed out that for every minute lost in these cases means a 10% less chance of survival. Due to Mark’s quick actions, trainers became involved and an ambulance called and the action time shortened.

Well done Mark.

Mr. Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
Holocaust Museum and Temple Beth Israel Visit

On Wednesday 20th July, the Year 11 Students visited the Holocaust Museum and the Temple Beth Israel. Here are some thoughts from the students on their day:

“We spent the day learning about the Holocaust and how some of the victims survived through it. The first group at the Museum heard the story of Jon a man from Paris who made it through by hiding in different places and having a false name. He was only young at the time of the Holocaust, but he still remembers everything which shows how traumatic it really was. He never saw his mother and sister again after the Germans invaded Paris when he was 3 years old. From the whole experience we learnt how people suffered and how approximately 6 million Jews were killed and 1.5 million of them were children”.

Kate Hunter 11 D

“The Holocaust Museum was truly an unforgettable experience. What really captured me were the holocaust survivors themselves. Listening to their stories and them creating images in our minds of what happened really”.

Isabelle Bangard 11 D

“When we arrived at Temple Beth Israel, we learnt about the Jewish culture, the role of a Rabi, looked at the Torah (the Jewish Bible) and got told about some of their celebration like the Bar and Bat Mitzvah. We also learnt about the Synagogue and how the ladies sat on the second shelf and the men sat on the bottom level. Learning about a different religion than Christianity, is very interesting. It gives you a greater understanding and tolerance of other people’s beliefs”.

Samantha Georges 11C

I would like to commend the Year 11 Students on their excellent behaviour and sensitivity towards the speakers on the day. Thanks also to the staff that attended and to Ms. Louise Forrester for coordinating the excursion.

Ms. Gina Goss
Year 11 Co-ordinator

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<tr>
<th>IMPORTANT DATES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1st Aug</td>
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<td>Wed 3rd Aug</td>
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<td>Mon 8th Aug</td>
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CALLING ALL ARTISTS
Exhibition of Hidden Talent.

Are you a budding artist? Would you like the potential to show your work in the Donnelly House Art Exhibition space? We are looking for artworks of any medium including photos, watercolours, oils, acrylics and three dimensional works.

Please bring in your work so that it can be put on display and we can promote your hidden talents. Please contact the Arts Captain Alisha Mascurine or Miss Edgerton if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

Miss. Carla Edgerton
Art Teacher

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

It’s that time of year again! All budding artists are invited to submit a Christmas card design in the annual St. Peter’s competition. See entry details in homerooms or see Ms. Hayes. Get involved and help to support your school. Entries must be into the front office by Friday 9th September.

No late entries will be accepted.

Ms. Vivienne Hayes
ARTS CO-ORDINATOR
Career News

Attendance at university and TAFE Open Days is really important. This is especially so if you plan to apply for a course which requires an interview, folio presentation or audition as part of the application process (art and design, music and drama courses for example). Put the dates in your diary. Year 10 is a great time to start some visits. Reading about a course that interests you is a good start; visiting the institution offering the course is even better.

OPEN DAY DATES (usually 10am – 4pm):

- Sat 6 Aug – Monash Uni (Berwick, Gippsland, Peninsula)
- Sun 7 Aug – La Trobe Uni (Melbourne); Monash Uni (Caulfield, Clayton, Parkville); William Angliss TAFE
- Fri 12 Aug – La Trobe Uni (Shepparton)
- Sun 14 Aug – Australian Catholic Uni (ACU) (Melbourne); Deakin Uni (War wombbool);
- La Trobe Uni (Mildura); RMIT (University and TAFE)
- Sat 20 Aug – Holmesglen TAFE
- Sun 21 Aug – Deakin Uni (Geelong); Gordon TAFE (Geelong), La Trobe Uni (Albury/Wodonga); Uni of Melbourne; Swinburne (Hawthorn, Lilydale and Prahran)
- Sun 28 Aug - ACU (Ballarat); Ballarat Uni; Box Hill Institute; Deakin (Burwood); La Trobe Uni (Bendigo)

HOW CAN I GET THE MOST VALUE OUT OF MY OPEN DAYS VISITS?
Don’t wander aimlessly….try the following:
- Plan to be at Open Day when relevant information sessions are conducted
- Allow sufficient time for your visit; two hours or so would be advisable
- Speak to staff about courses that interest you – write your questions beforehand
- Get a student perspective – speak to students studying courses that interest you
- Collect information/brochures

- Ask about industry based-learning opportunities
- Ask about international study opportunities
- Consider transport issues; is the campus accessible from where you live?
- Check the environment where you will study; will you be happy there for three/four years?
- Consider the facilities/clubs offered at your preferred institution
- Consider visiting a rural campus, especially if you think you won’t obtain a high enough ATAR for a city campus. ATAR’s are often lower and they often offer more personal assistance, accommodation, and a lifestyle which will suit some students.

Mrs. Shannon Maher
Careers Co-ordinator

Carers make a difference!
Life Without Barriers is seeking compassionate people willing to share their home with children and adults, who may have a disability, that require their support and care.

Carers can be single, living with a partner or have their own children. We offer excellent training, support and financial reimbursement to assist carers in enhancing a child or adults quality of life.

For more information please contact us on: hostfamilyvic@lwb.org.au or (03) 5990 3200

www.lwb.org.au
I am carrying about in my mind and heart the Gospel we heard proclaimed last Sunday. I am disturbed as these teachings of Jesus seem to be so much at odds with some of issues we face in our lives in Australia today.

The following reflection is taken from Sacredspace: the prayer book 2011 also available online www.sacredspace.ie.

Matthew 13:44-46: Jesus says to his disciples, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sell all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

- Jesus’ message is that the kingdom of God has come among us now. In him, God is very close to the world and to us.
- The marks of this kingdom are qualities like compassion, justice, love, mercy, peace of mind and heart, closeness to God. These are the treasures of life; to live by them, we will give up other concerns.

My disturbance about this Gospel passage gelling with our lives comes from the way we are treating the people who seek asylum in Australia. I fail to see our ‘solution’ to send these people off to Malaysia or even keep these people in detention as witnessing to the Gospel in our lives. Let us measure our response against these signs of the kingdom in our midst. Can we really say we are people of compassion; people who value justice; is this so called solution a loving response to a neighbor in need? The biblical meaning of the word ‘mercy’ is loving-kindness. How can denying people entry into Australia be a loving and kind action? This present circumstance certainly does not give me peace of mind and heart. Do we feel God’s closeness in this response?

I was heartened this morning to hear on the radio news that the Catholic Bishop of Darwin, Bishop Hurley, has suggested that our political solution to the asylum seekers is looking like ‘trading in people’. What shame I feel. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will warm the hearts of people to find solutions which treat people with dignity and that all of us will be disturbed enough by the Gospel to work for justice and do what we can in our own circles to bring about peace, acceptance and hospitality for all.

Mrs. Mary Murphy
Religious Education Leader

A Prayer for Refugees

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – Please pray for the children being confirmed this Friday night and their families.

R.C.I.A – Our inquiry sessions have just begun, but we are still waiting for YOU! Are you searching for... A deeper relationship with God? A sense of belonging in a faith community? A greater fulfillment of your mission in life? It is not too late to join us Wednesday at 7.30pm in the St. Agatha’s Hall. For more info please call Tina on 5996 3139 or the Parish Office on 5996 1985.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH – Another meeting to discuss preparations for the celebration will be held on Wed 3rd August at 9.45am (after morning Mass) in the Church meeting room. All interested parishioners are welcome to attend.

“RAISE THE ROOF” – Many, many thanks to all who came and supported our Rock ‘n’ Roll Dance fundraiser, especially with the cold weather. We hope you enjoyed yourselves. We raised $936.50. We would like to say a very special thanks to the young people from our Samoan Community who performed some wonderful Samoan dances for us, everyone enjoyed them very much. Our next fundraiser will be the return bout for the Trivia night on Friday night 19th August 2011, please look out for ticket sales signs in the near future. God bless you all for your continuing support.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY – will be celebrated on 11th September at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Narre Warren. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Prowse at 2pm followed by a Muti-Cultural Cuisine. We are looking for an Aboriginal Parishioner who can represent the Indigenous Community and also any National Flags (any country – size needs to be around 1 – 1.5metres) that we can use for the day. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist.

Mr. Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE