FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Futures Evening

I welcome all parents of students in Year 10, 11 & 12 to St. Peter’s tonight for the Futures Evening. Our Teaching staff and staff from a number of Universities and TAFEs will be available tonight to assist students and families as they begin the important process of subject selection and ultimately moving towards a career pathway. I’m sure there will be some information overload tonight so therefore I encourage our students to spend time working through the information that is presented and come back to staff over the following weeks with any queries they may have in this regard. I thank our Director of Learning Mr. Denny, Careers Advisor Mrs. Maher and our Key Learning Area Coaches for providing detailed information and advice that will go home tonight.

Confirmation Retreat Day

On the 25th of July students from the Year 11 Catholic Schools Youth Ministry course conducted a retreat day for the Grade Six students of St. Agatha’s to assist them in their preparation for their Confirmation.

A number of activities were developed for the day including a pray/meditation session, a drama activity and an art activity. Reports from staff at the Primary School, parents and Fr Denis O’Bryan indicated our students did a fantastic job under the leadership of Mr. David Fini and were able to make this a very special occasion for the Grade Six students. CSYMA is in its second year at St. Peter’s involving students in Year 11 & 12 and has a youth ministry focus giving our students the opportunity to put their faith into action. I congratulate all of the students listed below on the wonderful Christian Leadership they have demonstrated.

Emily Barker, Rachel Clark, Marija Culanic, Joshua Dodgson, Abbie Feldman, Elise Gale, Kathleen Gunn, Jayne Hussey, Katherine Li, Paula Murnane, Melissa Ryan, Nicholas Sim, Lauren Turnbull, Emma Van Hooydonk, Jessica Watt and Cory Willshire.

RACV Transmission Road Safety Awareness Competition

I congratulate Samantha Georges and Simon Mikha from the Year 11 Media class who have won through to the final of the RACV Transmission Road Safety Awareness Competition. Our students will be required to present their Road Safety Advertising Campaign on the 18th of August at the Channel 7 Studios.

This is the third year in a row that students from the Year 11 Media class have won through to the semi finals of this competition with St. Peter’s students Joel Walker, Sam Qualizza and Adonis Bitanga winning the competition in 2010. I wish Samantha and Simon well for the 18th and congratulate their teacher Ms. Gina Goss for her continued excellence in this area of the curriculum.

Mr. Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
Anti Bullying Focus this week

St. Peter’s College has a firm Bullying and Harassment Policy (which can be found on pages 9 & 10 of the Student Record Book) attached to this newsletter.

Whilst we continue to apply and promote this policy to our students on a daily basis, this week we have a particular focus on the whole area of Bullying and Harassment.

At this week’s Whole School Assembly, we saw a performance by a group of our VCE Drama students, who showed us the impact bullying can have on the victim.

On Friday of this week we will have an extended homeroom where each year level will be involved in a session promoting Anti Bullying Strategies and Behaviour that are particularly relevant for their year level. I would like to thank in advance the Year 12 Volunteer Leaders and the Year 11 Peer Support Leaders for running the sessions with the Year 8s and Year 7s respectively.

The three broad areas of focus for the sessions will be:

- **Cyber Safety** will be a big focus for all year levels this year, with a particular area for each year level
- Continue to raise the awareness of The College Anti Bullying Policy
- The role of the Innocent Bystander

Specifically related to Cyber Safety will be a 4 step strategy that will be promoted at each year level. It would be excellent if our students could have this strategy reinforced at home as well please. Here is the strategy:

- **STOP** - when you feel a conversation or situation is uncomfortable or nasty DO NOT RESPOND or REPLY
- **SAVE** - any evidence – learn how to keep records of offending material on-line
- **BLOCK** - learn how to block the bully or report it on line
- **TELL** - Tell an adult that you trust, Kids helpline on 1800 55 1800 or tell teacher at school that you trust

Mr. Anthony Banks
Deputy Principal – Students

Young Writer’s Competition

The City of Casey Youth Services is holding a young writer’s competition called “Fresh Words” open to all students from Years 7 to 12. Entries close Friday 26 August at 5pm. Entry forms and conditions are available from Ms. Lockley or in the library.

Ms. Tracy Lockley
Yr 11 Road Safety Seminar

On Thursday 21st July, the Yr 11 students attended an incursion on “Road Safety”. The CFA, Victoria Police, a TAC road trauma victim and Casey Council presented interesting and informative sessions. Here are some thoughts from the students:

We listened to the fire-fighters talk about how they get the people out of the car. And then they demonstrated a “car cut” just like they would if it was a real crash. We talked to a police officer about how people crash and what's the right thing to do if people are speeding in the car. – Kim Cuxton

We first started off with something practical; we had 4 firemen show us how they would open up a car if the car was in an accident. It took them 20 mins to open the car but they did it very safely. We had Mike (the Chief of the Firemen) explain to us how they open the car safely so they wouldn't injure the person. After that we had a Policeman explain the causes of car crashes not just to you but everyone else around you, and then he explained how to avoid getting into an accident. - Simon Mikha

A man named Michael shared his personal story of how a car accident changed his life forever, because of one accident his career completely changed and he was told that he would have to spend the rest of his life in a nursing home, it was very sad but inspiring and made you think about how much one decision could affect the rest of your life.

“It won't happen to me” this quote was used throughout one slideshow, it was a quote that I have said and have heard many people I know say, so to hear that many of the people who had been involved in incidents said the same thing was very confronting. – Paula Murnane

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St. Peter’s Win Victorian College Championships

In Term 2 I reported that the Intermediate Boys Basketball team had won the regional section of the Victorian College Basketball Championships. Last Wednesday the team headed to MSAC to compete in the finals day of the competition. The boys played 3 pool games to begin with, needing to finish 1st or 2nd in their pool to move on in the competition. The boys were never really challenged in these games and won all 3 games by over 10 points, giving them all a lot of confidence heading into the finals. In the semi final the team started quite slowly and were down 12-4 early on, but they kept their heads as they had done all tournament, and produced a great second half to run out 24-16 winners. This placed them into the Grand Final. The Grand Final was played against St. Joseph’s Ferntree Gully, a team which they had beaten earlier in the day in the pool games. The boys were told to have quick transitions at every opportunity to try and score some easy baskets, which had helped defeat St. Joseph’s in the pool games, and this paid off with St. Peter’s being far too quick and athletic for St. Josephs. Despite a close score line, the final was never in doubt with St Peters winning 23-19 and becoming Division 2 Victorian College Basketball Champions 2011! All the boys received a medal as a memento of the occasion. This is a fantastic result for the College and all the boys are to be commended on their attitude and sportsmanship throughout the whole competition.

A special mention must go to Mitch Zuijdijk who was judged the Most Valuable Player.

Team Members: Mitch Zuijdijk, Jack Keen, Matt Schwieger, Adam Rankin, Jordan Creef, Matt Allen, Brad Pavey, Nathan Dodgson and Tim Reeves.

Mr. Justin De Goldi
COACH

Victorian All Schools Netball Championships

On Monday 25th July the Intermediate Girls Netball Team travelled to Waverley Netball Centre to compete in the Vic Netball Championships. Despite losing two of the existing team members to injury, the team played well throughout the competition. They won three matches and drew another. However they were narrowly defeated in 3 games and ended up finishing in 5th position at the end of the day. Congratulations girls on the effort and skill you displayed on the day. The following girls were members of the Intermediate Girls team: Cristin Daly(capt), Laura O’Brien, Emily Simpson, Sharna O’Dwyer, Kaitlyn Wakartschuk, Jessica Lineham, Tegan Ryan, Maria Celona, Tegan Armstrong and Caitlyn Langdon

Mrs. Cathy Heijden
COACH
The College is preparing to farewell our World Youth Day Pilgrims with a liturgy of blessing and sending at a School Assembly this week. These students and the staff member accompanying them will represent St. Peter’s at the gathering of the youth of the world in Madrid this month. There is a wonderful connectedness with this event, it helps us understand and make real the “Universal Church”. We are also connected in a special way with the WYD cross which has spent time here at St Peter’s. This cross was blessed by Pope John Paul 2nd and travels the world. St. Peter’s has a beautifully made scaled down replica of this cross which was made for us by the former head of Technology Mr. Peter Young. We wish our pilgrims and all the young people travelling to Madrid a safe and blessed journey and look forward to their return and hearing of the experiences they have had.

Meanwhile, our Social Justice Captain, Brittany Hay, and her group are planning for the Winter Sleepout which was held last year and was a great success. This activity serves to raise awareness of the terrible situation that so many people in our society find themselves in today, homelessness, hunger and illness. Each of the students who take part will raise money which is directed towards those in need.

There are many activities in the College throughout the year which focus on the needs of others. These efforts are very much in keeping with the message of the Gospel of the eighteenth Sunday (31st July) the feeding of the five thousand. The seemingly impossible was done because the people offered to Jesus the little they had. From that little, great things were done. Each of us contributing what we can to the mission of the Church, helps bring about the Kingdom Of God. Every time we show compassion we make a difference in God’s name. There is nobody who is not worthy of our compassion and respect, each of us is a creature of God. Each of us has that dignity.

Deacon Tony Aspinall
College Chaplain

A Prayer for the gifts of the Spirit

Spirit of Jesus, you stirred the apostles to go out and proclaim the Good News. You blessed them with the faith and courage to carry the Gospel throughout the world. Enkindle in us zeal for the coming of the Kingdom. Translate our vision of a more loving world into daily acts of justice and mercy.

May the Spirit of God find a home in us.
May the Spirit of God animate us.
May the Spirit of God create new hearts in us.

These things we ask through Jesus our Saviour and friend.
Amen

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

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” – 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 Multi-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
INTRODUCTION

Since the middle of last year, a small committee of staff members at St. Peter’s has been developing a bullying policy to assist students, colleagues and other members of our community counter the actions of bullies. Unfortunately, from time to time, bullying has and will take place within the St. Peter’s Community, and, as all members of the community have the right to feel safe and to be treated with respect, we felt it was necessary to indicate what we view as bullying actions and how the community will deal with bullies, once their actions have been identified. This leaflet will explain the St. Peter’s College Bullying Policy – a similar leaflet has been given to your children – and includes the following elements:-

- who is affected by this policy;
- what actions can be described as bullying;
- what to do if you are bullied or you see someone being bullied;
- what will happen when you report a bullying incident;
- what consequences bullies can expect.

DEFINITIONS

It is important that everyone understands what we mean when we use words such as bullying. The College policy has adopted the community standard definitions of bullying as they are expressed in the writing on bullying and in the various pieces of harassment and discrimination legislation which apply to Victoria and Australia. The definitions which appear on the next page are the ones which have been included in the Student Leaflet:-
Bullying can take many forms. It’s not just a big kid threatening a little kid.

- It can be **physical**, where fighting, pushing and shoving happens.
- It can be **verbal**, with someone being called names, being put down, talked about behind their back, or being picked on because of the way they look, or the things they do, or are good at.
- It can be **visual**, where offensive notes are passed around about someone, or where damage is done to someone’s books, bag, artwork, locker etc.
- It can be **victimisation**, where threats to “get” someone are made, or where someone is picked on.
- It can be **sexual**, where someone is touched in a way that makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable, or when rude names, or jokes or comments are made about the way a person looks or lives their life.
- It can be through **body language** where others turn their backs on someone, or use inappropriate gestures to someone.
- It can be through **rumours**, where untrue stories are made up and told to others about someone, or when stories are exaggerated about someone and spread around to others.
- It can be through **cyber technology** – via telephone calls, e-mail, websites, social networking sites and where verbal or written messages are sent which are insulting, untrue, intimidating or frightening. This can even include sending or creating images of members of the St. Peter’s Community without their permission.

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<th>What happens when a bullying incident is reported?</th>
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As parents, it can be heart-breaking to discover that your child is upset because they are being bullied in any one or more of the ways described above. It can be even harder to bear if your child begs you not to contact school on the basis that “it will only make it worse”. It is very important to resist this plea – the truth is bullying will continue if the person being bullied remains silent and takes no appropriate action to stop the bullying actions. If your child is being bullied, please contact one of the following people to report the incident:-

- Your child’s Home Room Teacher
- Your child’s Year level Co-Ordinator
- The Student Welfare Co-Ordinator
- One of the Deputy Principals
- The Principal
When you contact one of these people, please have the following details ready to give them:-

- what happened;
- when it happened;
- who was involved and who saw the incident.

The incident will then be investigated by the Home Room Teacher, the Year Level Co-Ordinator and depending on the circumstances, one of the Deputy Principals, so that we can understand the full picture of what happened, and more importantly, why it happened. This will include:-

- an interview with your child;
- an interview with the bully;
- interviews with any witnesses.

This will all be done as quickly as possible, usually within 48 hours of your initial contact with the College.

Once all the information has been gathered together, a decision will be made about the next step to be taken. You and your child will be kept up to date with everything that is happening.

**Consequences**

When it becomes clear that a person has bullied another member of the St. Peter's Community, there will be consequences for their actions. Each incident will be treated individually, and confidentially to the parties concerned. The consequences may vary from case to case, depending on the circumstances surrounding each individual incident of bullying. Some of the possible consequences for those who bully others are listed below:-

- interview with senior members of staff and parents of the person who did the bullying;
- a Bullying Incident Report naming the person who did the bullying is placed on the College Bullying Incident File;
- the person who bullied signs an agreement that s/he will not bully anyone, in any way, again;
- repairing or replacing damaged property;
- withdrawing access to certain privileges/resources at school for a certain period of time;
- suspension.
Repeat bullying will be treated as a very serious offence and the consequences will be more severe. Depending on the situation, repeat bullying may include withdrawing a student from certain subjects or negotiating a student’s transfer to another College.

**Appeals**
If you or your child is unhappy with the way the incident was handled by the staff investigating the incident, you are entitled to contact the Principal to discuss your concerns and seek a resolution to the issues you may have.

**MONITORING THE OUTCOME**

Once the incident has been resolved, the Year Level Co-Ordinator and the Student Welfare Services Co-ordinator will monitor the situation to ensure that any assistance recommendations and/or consequences are implemented for both the student who was bullied and the offending student.

**CONCLUSION**

Simply because a policy exists on paper does not mean that bullying will suddenly cease to exist. It will only disappear from our community if we are all vigilant in ensuring that the people who bully others learn and understand that their behaviour is unacceptable.

Therefore, it is important to report any incidents of bullying to those people identified in this leaflet, if your child feels unable to do so themselves. **Please do not allow your child to persuade you that the bullying will only get worse if you report the incident to an adult at the College.** Bullying will only get worse if the bully thinks that he or she can get away with it – the longer their actions go unchecked, the “safer” from detection the bully will feel and the more they are going to bully your child. Not only does your child need to feel safe and respected, but the bully needs to be educated to the appropriate ways of living and working with others. Don’t allow bullying to continue.