I include this extract from the Blog of our World Youth day Pilgrims as they enter the first few days of their pilgrimage. Students can keep up to date with our Pilgrims by visiting their Blog at http://dioceseofsalewyd2011.blogspot.com/ or via a link on the St Peter’s College Website.

Sunday, August 14, 2011
Hola from Espanol!
After leaving Melbourne, an endless flight of fourteen hours, we arrived for a brief layover in Dubai. Many nationalities milling around the international departure proved to be an eye opening experience. From there another seven hour flight into Madrid. Stumbling out of the airport, we were greeted by a wall of humidity, but thankfully low temperatures (30C) to help us aclimatise. An hour bus ride into Toledo allowed us the opportunity to see the second largest Cathedral in Spain but definitely the richest. Toledo- for information purposes- is world renowned for their artistry in making swords and many a pilgrim considered how customs would deal with one of them coming home :-). From there another hour long bus ride to our destination.

41 weary pilgrims arrived in Talavera nearly thirty hours after leaving the comfort of our homes in Melbourne. We were stunned by the greeting that awaited us. The nuns (who have been awesome in their hospitality) along with 200 French pilgrims gave us overwhelming welcome. From there a lovely mass, a sensational dinner, much needed showers and off to bed. Our second day in Talavera dawned with somewhat rested travellers, to a very busy day of food, morning prayer, mass, swimming and visiting a 14th century castle in a small village of Oropesa (weight in Gold).

We ended the evening with an amazing experience of the ‘way of the cross’. This involved thousands of people following the crucifix and an icon of Mary through the streets of Talavera capturing the Stations of the Cross. The icon and the cross where not small by any means, they were lifted by 21 men and women on each. As the evening drew to close the weary pilgrims headed back to bed at 1:30am.

Sunday arrived with a sleep-in until 8am with breakfast and morning prayers. Each day the nuns have given us thought provoking presentation about their vocations, education of young girls and their work in the great community. Lunch today was a rousing experience joined by 200 French pilgrims from the diocese of Paris. Currently, many pilgrims are involved in a well deserved siesta. More news to follow, where and when we can get access to computers.

Adios Diocese of Sale Pilgrims

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UNIFORM – ZERO TOLERANCE

All families and students should be aware that St. Peter’s College has a zero tolerance policy with regards to uniform. This means that certain standards are set and if a student fails to meet these standards, then they are either placed in isolation (Years 7 to 10) or sent home (Years 11 and 12), until the standards are met.

Facial Piercings:
- As per the Student Record Book, the only piercings allowed are one plain gold or silver stud or sleeper in each ear lobe. Any piercing other than this will result in the student being asked to remove it.
- If the piercing is not removed, the student will not be allowed to attend classes until the matter is rectified, as per the Zero Tolerance Policy.

Wearing of PE/Sports Uniform:
- Students are permitted to wear Sports uniform on the day their Year Level is timetabled on for Sport (this applies only to Years 9 to 12).
- If a student has PE Period One, they may wear their PE Uniform to school and then change back into their normal school uniform for the remainder of the day.
- The wearing of the PE/Sports Uniform as a result of the normal uniform being washed is not an acceptable reason.

Your cooperation with regards to the above is most appreciated. St. Peter’s College has a high standing in the Cranbourne Community and keeping to the above mentioned standards will help maintain our reputation. If you have any queries regarding the above please contact your child’s Homeroom Teacher.

Mr. Anthony Banks
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

SPORT NEWS!

SIS INTERMEDIATE BOYS SOCCER VS ST. JOHN –
Following the opening 1-1 draw against a decent SFX side (Debaise getting the goal with an assist from the opposition keeper whose clearance rebound in off his rear end), the boys were sent out against St. John full of confidence. After dominating the first 10 minutes, the wheels fell off and we looked dead and buried approaching Half Time facing a 3-0 deficit. At last the forward line of DeBaise and Collier sprung into action and both strikers grabbed a goal each to swing the momentum back in our favour. With Wennholz instructed to mark the 7ft opposition danger man, we had 3 gilt edged opportunities to equal the scores – but the Lekakis header against the post after he had risen like a salmon was the closest we came. These missed chances proved decisive as St John’s bagged 2 late goals to earn them a flattering 5-2 victory. It’s back to the drawing board for next week’s visit of John Paul, with Chairman Degoldi ready to wield the hammer unless results improve.

Mr. Andrew Broadley - COACH

SIS INTERMEDIATE GIRLS BASKETBALL –
In round 2 of the SIS Intermediate Basketball, the girls travelled to SFX Berwick to play the match last Friday afternoon. The girls showed great determination and combined well to come away with a decisive win. Jessica and Haylee Lineham displayed great skill in offense and Taylah Davidson worked tirelessly in defense. It was promising to see our less experienced players also becoming more confident. Jasmine Carroll, Paris Magius and Alex Wood all made valuable contributions to the team and worked hard at both ends of the court. Congratulations girls on a fine win. The final score was St Peters College 34 - SFX 19.


Mrs. Cathy Heijden - COACH

SENIOR BOYS FOOTBALL –
Last Thursday the senior boys football team travelled to Beaconhills. The boys got off to a great start taking a 6 goal lead into quarter time. We were able to keep the momentum in the second quarter once again outscoring the opposition to take an 8 goal lead into half time. We ended up walking away with a great 46 point win. It was a great whole team effort. Jordan Campbell was superb in the ruck giving the on-ballers first use of the ball all day, with Chris Biviano, Aaron Bower and Michael Russo taking full use of this to carve up the opposition with clearance after clearance. We were well serviced by forwards Ben Milano and Jeremy Jakupi who got to the right spots constantly and kicked five goals between them. Tomorrow we face St. Francis Xavier.

by Ben Milano – 12B.
St Peters- 13-7-85 def Beaconhills 6-3-39
Goals: Milano 3, Biviano 2, Jakupi 2, Russo 2, Minton 2, Rackham 1, Bower 1.
Best: Bower, Milano, Biviano, Campbell, Russo.

Mr Brown and Mr Laurie - COACHES

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Student Free Day!
15th September 2011
9am – 8.30pm

More information regarding appointments to follow.
STUDENT WELLBEING

Education for Students and Families: the harsh reality of poor use of Cyber Technology.

This past term, we have been running sessions for students on the need to be careful and respectful of themselves and others, when using social media. The consequences can be negative, lifelong and life changing.

I commend to you the recent article from the Age Newspaper (24th July), and urge you to discuss the issues raised in it with your sons and daughters. Students may inadvertently be exposed to material they do not invite or produce and still be subject to police charges. We, at St. Peter’s College need to educate young people about being responsible and taking responsibility.

We ask you, their parents and guardians to join with us in this important educational partnership.

Mrs. Anita Carter
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

Strong Punishment for Teenage Folly

Megan, a teenage schoolgirl, takes a revealing photo of herself in the school toilets and sends it to a male friend on her mobile phone. She then looks on helplessly as the photo is texted to her classmates. The brief account of her humiliation can be seen on YouTube. It was made by ThinkUKnow, an internet safety campaign developed by the Australian Federal Police and Microsoft Australia. The idea is to educate teenagers on how little control they have over images posted on the internet.

Child education expert and former police officer Susan McLean says she has not visited an Australian secondary school that has not had an issue with sexting. She had said: “When I started working in this area, the only time there were pictures out there of young people in cyberspace that were naked or sexually explicit were as a result of coercion ... so a girl being tricked into sending a picture. But what we’re seeing now of course is the young girls taking these photos of themselves, of themselves and their boyfriends and sending them off to cyberspace.”

Educators and the law are struggling to keep pace with the phenomenon. Smart-phones, which allow the instant taking and sending of images via text or email, have allowed teenagers, particularly young girls, to emulate the behaviour of celebrities, whose naked pictures are in circulation on the internet. Some girls have absorbed the idea that taking and sending a suggestive photo is normal behaviour. There is often little understanding that once their photos are on the internet or social media network, it might be difficult to retrieve them; or that their images might travel beyond the safety of a friendship group. Yet this breakdown of privacy, which can be just one unintended effect of sexting, can be particularly damaging for teenagers. One moment’s folly can lead to years of embarrassment, anxiety and regret. It is important for parents and schools to educate young people about the dangers of this behaviour.

Legally too, sexting can also have a disastrous impact on the young people who receive these images. A study of US teens in 2008 showed that about 39 per cent had received texts or emails with sexually suggestive content that were initially intended to be sent to someone else. Ignorance of the law is no defence. Under child pornography laws in Victoria it is a crime for anyone to transmit or possess naked pictures of a person aged under 18.

As today’s Sunday’s Age report shows, possessing sexually suggestive images of teenagers can lead to placement on a sex offender register. Those on the register are monitored by police and are ineligible for jobs that involve working with children, say, or volunteering at sports clubs. This can be devastating for those who are on the register because the ex-girlfriend sent them a naked photo, and can be onerous for the police. Some young men who have been found with sexual images of teenagers on their computer have gone before the courts on child pornography offences. The chairman of the criminal bar association, Greg Lyon, says the law was written before sexting became common among adolescents.

The law needs to find a way of responding more sensitively to sexting. An urgent review is called for. In the words of law lecturer Bruce Arnold from the University of Canberra: “A punitive approach may traumatisate both offenders and victims ... we need to differentiate between foolish 10 year olds, the wild 16-year-old and the vicious 50-year-old.”

Mid Term Reflection

At this mid point in the term I have had the opportunity to reflect on the work of staff and students in ‘staying the course’. As the dreary weather rolls on and some are encumbered with colds and flu, there is at the same time great efforts at perseverance, resilience and positivity. This gives each of us great hope – I continue to admire many students showing great determination in their learning and many staff continuing to live the passion of their teaching. Whether student or teacher, we continue to learn from one another how to be - ours is a great place of learning! I share with you a reflection which speaks to us of mid points:

“Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being n the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability; and that it may take a very long time. And so I think is with you. Your ideas mature gradually; let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don’t try to force them on, as though you could be today what time will make you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming with you will be.

Give our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and of accepting the anxiety of feeling yourself in the suspense and incomplete.”

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hanney
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
On the day of writing this piece, we celebrate the Feast of The Assumption of Mary, Mother of God body and soul into heaven. Such is the importance placed on this feast by the Church, it is one of only two Holy Days of Obligation, the other being Christmas day. Our Staff Prayer was focussed on Mary today and a Marian prayer was said in home rooms.

It was as recently as 1950 that Pope Pius X11 defined the Doctrine that Mary was Assumed (taken up) into heaven, body and soul. Our devotion to Mary is often misunderstood by people of other faiths. In fact it would be quite accurate to say that many Catholics do not clearly understand the Church’s teachings on Mary and her place in the life of the Church.

We don't pray to Mary instead of God. We pray to God through Mary, we ask that she will take our prayers to Jesus and intercede for us. When we consider the love that Jesus has for His mother Mary who gave birth to Him, brought Him up and who was present at His death on the cross, we take our prayers to her with confidence. Mary is not an obstacle to devotion to Jesus. Rather she is an example to us, an example of a life lived in the love of God, a life lived in faithfulness and in obedience. Mary submitted her will to that of God, when the Angel came to Mary to tell her that she had been chosen to be the Mother of God, she said “be it done unto me according to thy word”.

St Luke’s Gospel tells us that Mary’s cousin Elizabeth praised Mary’s faith which had allowed her to say yes to God. When Mary heard these words she replied in the beautiful words that we now know as “The Magnificat”.

My soul glorifies the Lord, My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her lowliness; Henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

Mary had a much bigger place in Catholic homes when the rosary was prayed by families. The rosary gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the great events of Mary’s life and her place in Jesus’ life. Although Mary is presented as an example to us, she is not the same as us. We believe that Mary was without sin from the moment of her conception, we call her “The Immaculate Conception”. Hence the greeting by the Archangel Gabriel to Mary “Hail, full of grace”. From all time she was chosen by God to be the mother of His Son Jesus and therefore did not share in the shadow of original sin.

Mary has much to offer us as individuals and as families. Under her title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Mary is the patron of our Diocese and under her title of Our Lady Help of Christians she is patron of Australia. As our loving mother let us ask her to be with us and guide us to Jesus her son.

Deacon Tony Aspinall
College Chaplain

Prayer for The Assumption of Mary

Gracious God, you honoured Mary, the mother of Jesus, by taking her, body and soul, into heaven. May we who strive to imitate her life of faithful discipleship be comforted by her assumption and its promise of eternal life with you. She believed that the promises made to her would be fulfilled. We who join her in this confidence trust that you will hear and answer our prayer.

Amen

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

“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.

THE LEGION OF MARY invites parishioners to join us on Sunday 21st August at 2pm in the Church as we honour our blessed Mother with prayers, hymns and a fascinating talk & video presentation by Frank Alley [B.A. Clin. Psy] on the forgotten life of our Blessed Mother.

CAKE & MYSTERY BOTTLE STALL – Voice For Life members will be having a cake and mystery bottle stall on Father’s Day, 4th September, after 9am & 10.45am Masses. Proceeds go to building our Memorial Gardeb for babies (see VFL Noticeboard). Donations of cakes, slices etc will be gratefully accepted and can be dropped off at these Masses.

A Father’s Day Hamper will be raffled this same weekend. Tickets on sale after all Masses leading up to Father’s Day.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY – The Diocese of Sale is celebrating the 97th World Day of Migrants and Refugees with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Christopher Prowse abd the clergy on Sunday 11th September at 2pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Narre Warren. In order to prepare for the Mass, musicians and singers from diocesan parishes are invited to rehearsals at Our Lady Help of Christians Church on: Wednesday 31st August at 8pm & Wednesday 7th September at 8pm.

ST. THERESE’S MARKET FUN DAY – Monday 19th September 2.30 – 5.30pm. Book a table for $10 to advertise you Pary Plan/Handicraft/Beauty Products or other small business. All benefits will go towards the St. Therese's Care Group. Contact Jennie on 0409 937 270 or Lindy on 0400 907 894 or the School Office on 5996 7525.

Mr. Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE