CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2012

This week we celebrate Catholic Education Week 2012. At the Leadership Mass and Dinner last Thursday evening, Director of Catholic Education Mr. Peter Ryan urged those present to reflect on what we had inherited as Catholic educators; a unique and vibrant sector in the Catholic Church. This word of our inheritance has stayed with me as we begin Catholic Education week. The gift of belonging to a Catholic community of Education, Faith & Service is precious. It is our hope that all students and staff who make up our St Peter’s community have a deep sense of connection to each other and to our faith story. As educators, many of us having also received a Catholic education, are conscious of what has been handed on to us in Catholic Education; what great stories we have of pioneering forebears, great saints, modern thinkers and writers and our own many and varied experiences of great figures who have contributed so much to the shape and culture of our schools today. “Stand strong in faith: the God of all grace will confirm, strengthen and support you…” (1Peter 5: 13) What a privilege to be a part of such a story, with the assurance of God’s grace. All good gifts are better in the sharing and of course we too contribute to and enrich this precious gift. The students in our schools are ‘onto something good’ and this week we reflect and celebrate this.

Last week, I had the privilege of taking part in the Year 11 Retreat. We need look no further to a fine example of Catholic Education at its best. Here, students and staff reflected together on their world, the work of God in their lives and their calling to bring themselves and their gifts to others. Parents, you can be so very proud of your sons and daughters. All students, without exception, showed tremendous openness and respect; their participation was exemplary and they are a great credit to their family, their school and themselves. At several times the staff commented on the great value of students stepping aside from normal routines and busyness and recognising God very much at work in them. Our retreat program enables us all to nurture our relationship and be aware of God’s grace.

Last week, our College Captains Skye Brennan and Tyson Tifere were joined by Mr. Greg Nelson at the Cranbourne ANZAC Day Service. Included in this newsletter is a brief word from Mr. Nelson and I thank each of them for representing the College in this way. At Cranbourne East, Mr. James Roberts led a campus assembly commemorating the service and sacrifice of Australians, past and present. Each of these events as well as the many encounters each day between staff and students make us aware of the heart and mind being touched in all that we do in Catholic Education.

This week, all students will unite in shared prayer, asking for God’s continued blessings on all in Catholic Education. Included in this newsletter are some comments offered by those within our community around what Catholic Education means to them. I encourage you to read and reflect on your own experience of Catholic Education. We have much to be grateful for.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hanney
ACTING PRINCIPAL
Director’s Message

Catholic Education Week 2012 should be one of the most important weeks on every Catholic school’s calendar. Irrespective of whether it falls within your ‘enrolment period’, it is a time when your school should be more open than usual to the wider community.

I encourage you to maximise this opportunity to proclaim our Catholic identity, celebrate our faith tradition, host and participate in activities which build a sense of community and actively promote Catholic education in the Diocese of Sale.

A frequently asked question by parents considering a school for their child is “What makes a Catholic school different from any other type?”

The answer can be found in this year’s Catholic Education Week theme: 'Year of Grace: Year of Opportunity.’

As Catholic schools, we recognise and proclaim that we are dependent on God and God’s gifts to us. At the same time, precisely because we are given those gifts, we are challenged to use them to develop each and every one to their full humanity and to contribute to the task of building God’s Kingdom on Earth.

Thus, while each of our 41 Catholic schools has its own identity, we all share the same overarching goal: the promotion of the human person. The student is the centre of all our endeavours in the school, recognising that it is in the person of Christ that the fullness of truth concerning humanity is to be found.

The tagline of the Catholic Education Office in the Diocese of Sale ‘Faith … Learning … Growth’ reflects the three fundamental core purposes of all staff

Happy Catholic Education Week!

Regards,

Peter Ryan
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Sector share of enrolments: Victorian school, August 2011

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BACKGROUND

Purpose: the goal of Catholic Education Week is to communicate and celebrate the distinctive mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Sale. It is an opportunity to celebrate and promote not only the great work being done in our schools but also the ethos.

Theme: Each year a theme is chosen to highlight an aspect of Catholic education. In 2012, the theme is ‘Year of Grace: Year of Opportunity.’

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Cor 13:13)

On Pentecost Sunday, 27 May 2012, the Australian Catholic Church will launch ‘A Year of Grace’ which will focus on starting afresh with Christ. This year’s theme gives us an opportunity to focus on God’s gift of grace in the lives of our students and staff.

ANZAC DAY

Last Wednesday, Anzac Day dawned to some bleak, wet wintry weather. Despite the conditions a large crowd gathered at the cenotaph in High Street, Cranbourne. The crowd gathered to pay their respects to those who had lost their lives in defence of our country.

As is customary, wreaths were laid as part of the solemn ceremony before the Last Post was played. This year St. Peter’s College was very ably represented by our school captains, Skye Brennan and Tyson Tifere. Skye and Tyson laid a wreath on behalf of the whole college community in a dignified and respectful manner.

Their generosity in giving up some of their Anzac Day was appreciated by all concerned.

Mr. Greg Nelson

VCE Performance Night

Where? St Peter’s College Hall
When? Thursday 17th May at 7.00pm
How Much? $5.00 single, $15.00 family of 4 tickets available from student reception from Wed 2nd May

NO DOOR SALES – TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED

Come along and support our VCE Dance, Drama and Music students in their outstanding performance assessments. If you’re interested in studying the Performing Arts in senior school…DON’T MISS OUT on this show!!
WHAT DOES CATHOLIC EDUCATION MEAN TO ME?

‘To me........ Catholic Education has a greater community focus and emphasis on the strengths and contributions of the individual.’

‘When I attended my first interview at a Catholic school I knew that this is where I belonged - the values of Catholic Education were in synch with my own’.

Mrs. Annette Marschner

“I believe that Catholic Education has something special in the sense that its main aim is to cater for the needy. This does not only mean looking after those who are materially poor but serving every single student, as each one has a need. As a result of the assistance and support provided to students in Catholic Schools, our aim is to encourage them to become Responsible Citizens and capable of identifying the needs of the society they are living in and be much willing in turn to help make our world a better place by sharing their Divine Gifts with Love and Compassion.”

Mr. Jean-Paul Antoine

“Catholic Education creates a supportive environment for students that is not just focused on the academics but on the development of the whole student- pastorally, spiritually and emotionally to ensure that students finish their schooling as a more rounded individual.”

Ms. Natasha Le Noel

Catholic Education is about, and founded in, tradition and culture. These are manifested in how we live, work and pray together as faith community. At the core of our community are our relationships with one another. As I reflect on my time in Catholic Education, the stories about the origins and development of our significant traditions and cultures centre around the building of relationships.

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Mt 18:20). It is in this statement that we are unified with the presence of Jesus and that the building of community centered on faith is our focus.

Mr. James Roberts

“Catholic Education develops the impetus through which change can be effected.”

Mr. Justin Dee

“Catholic education takes place in a community – teachers, students, parents and the wider community work together to not only nurture Gospel values and teachings but also to educate and develop the whole person - intellectually, spiritually, physically, emotionally and morally. It contributes significantly to the formation of one's conscience. Catholic education challenges both students and staff to find, through God, meaning, purpose and value in their lives. Its value is seen, experienced and lived long after the completion of one's studies.”

Ms. Marjorie Canal

“Great memories of school days! The inspiration of Mary MacKillop and a real sense of commitment in your fellow colleagues.”

Mr. Roger Hampson

“To me, Catholic Education means identity, family, faith and mission – and I have loved being a part of those key elements as a student and a teacher.”

Ms. Gina Goss

“To model what it means to have empathy for the human condition with all of its frailties and idiosyncrasies.”

Mr. Chris Landman

“To me, it means the study of the bible, society and the teaching of how people should live according to the bible. Makes our community and Australia’s community better.”

Prateeksha Prasad 8H

“Catholic education to me is important to my life because it helps us understand our faith and the life of Jesus and what God wants us to do.”

Eddie Monserrate 8H

“Catholic education is to learn in the presence of God. Also, Catholic education at St. Peter’s has taught me to always have faith and be a better person. I’ve also been taught to treat everyone with the same amount of respect.”

Emily Hoyle 7I

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE UPDATE

After a relatively quiet Term 1, things are getting busy in Terms 2 & 3 in the Exchange Department!! Please see below for 3 exciting upcoming events!! For more details please email Mrs. Kugimiya: skugimiya@stpeters.vic.edu.au

HOST FAMILIES WANTED!! (END OF JUNE 2012)

We are urgently seeking host families for a 16 year old female Japanese student, who is interested in participating in a long stay exchange at the college from May until December this year. It is not necessary that the family have a son or daughter at the college who is currently studying Japanese, but it would be an advantage. If you are interested in hosting this student for part of her stay, please contact me asap!

JAPAN STUDY TOUR 2012!! SEPT-OCT 2012

Expression of Interest forms have been issued to Y10 students currently studying Japanese – if you have not done so, please email Mrs. Kugimiya asap if interested in this opportunity for your son or daughter.

FRANCE TRIP 2013!! – MAR & APR 2013

In March next year we will be visited by a group of students from our new sister school in Paris, if you are interested in hosting one of these students please email Mrs. Kugimiya. Soon after, around the Easter Holidays next year, we are hoping to take a group of SPC students on a 2 week exchange to France. Get in early and register your interest now!!

Mrs. Simone Kugimiya
Exchange Coordinator
Catholic Education Week was launched at the Diocesan Education Leadership Mass and Dinner at Pakenham on 26th April. Bishop Prowse was the Principal Celebrant of the mass. As part of his homily the Bishop spoke passionately of the need for our schools to be proud of who we are and to be visible in our communities. To not only live and teach what we believe but to be seen to be doing it.

Bishop Prowse said that he saw evidence of Catholic Schools being Evangelising Communities and as such the opportunities are endless if we are committed to this. Of course to give the message of the Gospels in today’s world is no mean task. It requires a lived faith commitment from both Principals and staff. It requires a faithfulness to Church Teachings which are necessarily counter cultural and regularly come under strong criticism.

Director of Catholic Education in our diocese, Mr. Peter Ryan, spoke of the difficult beginnings of Catholic Education which led us to our well supported situation today. There was a lot of prejudice towards the concept of Catholic Education but today we occupy a unique position in the Catholic world with our system of funding and government support.

Just as at the beginning we do not discriminate on the basis of a family’s financial situation. Our values and our history are important and should be constantly remembered by all of us and should be handed on to our students.

Here at St Peter’s we are building a more solid understanding of our patron St Peter to give us a clearer overall picture of our future direction. In conjunction with this we are also building a greater awareness of the lives and work of our House Patrons. As parents we can assist in this by ensuring that our homes have symbols of our faith in them, a crucifix, a picture or small statue of Mary and to have a time of family prayer when possible.

When we say that Catholic Education is the work of Catholic Schools, we mean the whole school community, not just those who work at the school. A lived faith in the home will have an enormous complementary effect to the efforts of the Catholic school. Young people today need guidance, not the guidance of an ever more secular culture, but guidance in the way of beauty, peace and justice. They need guidance in respect for themselves and others, in tolerance and in compassion. As a Catholic school, it is our mission to help students recognise the action of God in the world and in their lives, your lives can greatly assist in this as you live and share your own faith.

Deacon Tony Aspinall
COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

A Prayer for Teachers and Parents.

God, you are the supreme teacher who illuminates human beings with truth.
Make me your echo and allow me to sow truth and goodness.
Let me be passionate about truth and justice and warm my heart with your commandments.
Grant me the gift of conveying, teaching, leading and indicating your ways.
Direct my mind to your truth and my hands to kind acts.
I am small and frail in your light, but allow me to fulfill my difficult mission.
Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS

THE MONTHLY HEALING MASS will be celebrated next Sunday 6th May at 6pm.

GUEST SPEAKER: Parishioners are invited to a talk given by Fr. Adam Wodarczyk who is visiting from Poland to speak on the Polish Youth Movement and Family Movement which is involved in strengthening faith in families. Please join him after the 6pm Mass next Sunday 6th May at 7.00pm in the St. Agatha’s Hall. Youth Group members & leaders are encouraged to attend.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: An information night was held Tuesday 1st May. Parents who wish to prepare their child for this Sacrament should contact Sr. Anna on 5996 1985.

Mr. Greg Nelson
St Agatha’s Parish Representative

Deacon Tony Aspinall
COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

Faith Education Service
St Agatha’s Parish Stewardship Program 2012

Christian Stewardship - A way of living

What is Stewardship?
- It is the recognition that everything that we have and everything that we are is a gift from God
- Freely given to us for our use and benefit
- Held in trust by us rather than owned by us
- To be used as God would want
- To be returned with increase to the Lord

A Way of Living
- Christian Stewardship is primarily personal
- At my Baptism I was called to form and serve the Body of Christ
- How do I live my life as a result?
- How do I use my God given gifts and talents?
- How much do I put back in thanksgiving?
- What do I do with the rest?

Beyond the Personal
- Christian Stewardship also extends beyond the personal
- It includes the parish and the wider Church
- How much of my time and talent do I give to the parish and to the Church?
- Which parish ministries do I serve?
- What other needs exist and what more can I do?

The Big Picture
- Christian Stewardship also extends to the world and all of creation
- It is needed now as perhaps never before!
- How can I bring the Good News of Jesus to the world?
- What can I do about world hunger and poverty?
- What can I do about global warming, pollution and the ozone layer?
- About water, oil and petrol shortages?
- About salinity, land degradation and threatened species?

Our Parish Stewardship Program

Over the next few weeks our parish will be conducting a Stewardship Program. It will be a time of reflection and renewal when we take the opportunity to become involved in the life of the parish by being present, contributing and taking ownership.

How will it work?
- Careful preparation, prayerful response
- Three successive weekends
- Emphasis on personal stewardship of Time, Talent & Treasure
- Parish Stewardship Information Meeting
- Future parish vision, hopes and dreams
- Banners, bulletins and brochures
- Pledging of Time, Talent and Treasure
- One hour of prayer, service and giving a week
- Carefully selected Follow-up
PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2012

The very first command given by God was that of Stewardship, “Increase and multiply and replenish the earth.” (Genesis 1:28).

On acceptance we become stewards, or managers, or custodians over creation - not owners.

At the heart of stewardship is the realisation that everything that we have and everything that we are is a gift from God, to be used carefully by us and to be returned to God from whom it came.

Stewardship, therefore becomes a way of life where we are caretakers of God's gifts, with God as creator and owner of all.

As stewards we acknowledge our giftedness and give thanks to God by using our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure in the service of God, our parish, our local community and the world at large.

Stewardship is primarily personal. It asks each of us to acknowledge that we are not, perhaps, as “self made” as we would like to think, rather that we are the beneficiaries of great graces from a loving God and that God expects us to use those gifts wisely and to make an honest return on them.

We cannot hide them away, they are ours to use and they will eventually return to the Giver of all Gifts.

How does that affect the way we live? If we are living the life of a true steward, it will have a profound effect on our lives. As stewards we measure everything we do against the stewardship model. How do we live our lives? How do we use our God given talents? How much of our treasure do we return in thanksgiving for our many gifts and blessings?

PARISH STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION MEETING 2012

All parents are invited to attend our Parish Stewardship Information Meeting. It will be an opportunity to learn more about Stewardship, to acknowledge our recent achievements and to consider the future plans of our parish.

Details of the meeting are as follows:

THURSDAY 10th of MAY 2012
7.30pm - St Agatha’s Hall

"Much is required from the person to whom much has been given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given." (Luke 12:48)

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

We invite all families to join us with our Stewardship Prayer.

Lord, we thank you for calling us to be your Church.
Through our Baptism we are called to ministry and to witness.
In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call.
By serving others we follow Your example and proclaim our beliefs.
By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and caring.
Help us Lord to always worship You as You deserve, to grow in faith and service and to give without counting the cost.
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen
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The new Greater Melbourne Entertainment™ Book features many of the most popular businesses in the area like...

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St Peter’s College

Cranbourne-Frankston Road, Cranbourne
Contact: April Hampson Phone: 03 5990 7777 Email: ahsmpson@stpeters.vic.edu.au

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