Catholic School Funding
Over the last week Mr Stephen Elder Executive Director of Catholic Education in Victoria has been in Canberra negotiating with the Federal Government to ensure “Funding Certainty” for Catholic Schools as we move beyond 2013 when the current funding agreement expires. As of today’s date this agreement is still to be achieved.
As a parent of a student attending a Catholic school, you are in a position to significantly influence the Australian Government’s proposed school funding and regulatory reform plans for Australian Schools. Writing a letter to the school’s local federal Member of Parliament can have a significant influence on the eventual decisions that the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Nationals Coalition make about the future of Australian education.
The Australian Government is putting Catholic education under pressure to sign up to its reforms by 30 June 2013. Despite repeated requests, the Government has still not provided modelling showing the proposal’s financial impact on Catholic schools, or how the reforms could affect my ability to make decisions in the interest of our school community’s needs.
It is very rare that this request would be made of you, but we are encouraging all Catholic parents in Victoria to write to their local federal Member of Parliament to ask questions about the impact of the Australian Government’s proposed funding model for Catholic schools.
A suggested letter is attached to this newsletter and is also on our website.
If you are successful in getting answers to these questions, you will be helping Catholic education make a decision about how our schools could be funded in the future.
If you require any further assistance or advice about this material, please speak to me, or contact the Executive Director of Catholic Education, Stephen Elder, on 03 9267 0228 or via email execdirector@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au.

Japanese Exchange Visit
In the last week of term 2 – June 22nd to 29th, St Peter’s College is hosting a touring party of 14 students from Sapporo Seishu High School as part of our annual Cultural Exchange Program. As yet we do not have billets to host all of these students during their short stay. If any families are in a position to host, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. For more information please contact Exchange Co-ordinator Ms Yolanda Bonnica at St Peter’s College on Ph: 59907777

Congratulations
On the 27th of May Naomi Miller from Assisi House, competed in an interschool dressage competition at the Victorian Equestrian Centre representing St Peters College. Naomi who is in Year 8 at the East Campus won her First Class, scored second in her Second Class and overall scored the highest points in her Division, earning the title of Champion in her Grade Four Division. Well Done Naomi.

Peer Support
Our Peer Support Program has concluded for the year and I would like to congratulate all the staff and students for their involvement in the program this year. Peer Support involves year 11 students working with Year 7 students over the first term and half of the school year to assist with their transition into St Peter’s College. It not only provides great pastoral support for our new students but is an excellent program for developing leadership skills in our senior students. I thank in particular the Co-ordinators of Peer Support, Ms Rivonia Pereira at the West Campus and Mrs Jodie Connell at the East Campus and our senior students who have made this such a successful program.
GIRLS IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

On Tuesday 21st May Year 12 students Jayde Kelly and Letisha Adams and Year 11 student Perri McLean accompanied me to the Girls in Education International Conference held in Melbourne. The conference was attended by teaching staff from all over Australia and New Zealand. The students participated in various sessions by presenters from a variety of backgrounds including Opera Singer Tania De Jong and well known GP and radio psychologist Dr Sally Cockburn aka “Dr. Feelgood”. The girls then took part on a student panel where they were questioned on their education as a whole, specific teaching and learning strategies that concerned them and how schools could improve in order to improve the overall learning experience. Our girls demonstrated great maturity and articulation during the panel and were recognised by both teachers and principals from both Victoria and interstate. I wanted to publicly acknowledge these students and let them know how proud the College is of them.

Ms Rivonia Pereira

On Tuesday 21st May, we had the opportunity to attend the Girls in Education International Conference. We were thoroughly engaged while listening to the amazing Dr. Sally Cockburn as she encouraged teachers to “engage, energise and empower” young women in education today. Six other girls attended the conference in which about 250 teachers were able to ask their “most want to know questions” regarding issues from self-harm to what teachers do best. Following the panel we were given the opportunity to attend workshops which explored issues involving youth in today’s society.

Overall the experience was highly informative and captivating!! Oh, and the food wasn’t too bad either! It was such a great experience being able to interact with teachers, as well as being with the best mentor possible – Ms. Pereira

Jayde Kelly, Letisha Adams & Perri McLean

HOUSE BASED COMPETITION AND ACTIVITIES REAP RECORD RESULTS

Fundraising undertaken during Term 1 has delivered a record fundraising result for Caritas.

At the recently conducted College Assembly a cheque for $6327.65 was presented to College guest Ms Susan Grout a representative from Caritas, a record for the Term 1 fundraising effort conducted each year. With the implementation of the College House System the competition generated by the House students and teachers has paid big dividends. Marian House delivered the grand total of $1,443.45, as always the international cuisine lunch sales proved to be a winner! In order, the following fundraising results were also achieved:

- Augustine $724.00
- Assisi House $711.80
- East Campus $704.75
- Romero $563.10
- MacKillop $480.60
- Harmony Day & Concert $445.45
- Glowrey $424.80
- Avila $356.65
- RE Department/Pancake Tuesday $244.10
- Kolbe $228.95

Activities were run over a number of weeks and included Raffles, Chocolate Drive, Cake Stalls, Pancake Sales, and the Harmony Day activities including a Student Lunchtime Concert.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this result.

Caritas Australia

The Catholic Church of Australia’s International aid and development organisation.

They deliver long term development programs, help people regardless of ethnicity, religion or political beliefs, work with the poorest of the poor and help people help themselves.

They work in countries such as Bolivia, Bangladesh, Samoa, as well as Australia.

Pictured are Mr Tim Hogan, Principal with Ms Susan Grout, from Caritas Australia & Andrea Polydor, College Social Justice Captain.
The Parents and Friends Association undertakes numerous activities, including fundraising activities and the donation of such funds to various areas of College activity. Meetings are held on a Tuesday evening, twice a term, and at most meetings a staff guest speaker comes to address the group on activities associated with their day to day life at the college, and our Principal reports on relevant College issues and activities.

NEXT MEETING
NEXT WEEK TUESDAY 11th June
7.15 Tea and Coffee
7.30-9.00 pm Staffroom St Peter’s College West Campus
Frankston-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne, 3977
Enter via Navarre Drive Gates Please

GUEST SPEAKER – MR STEVE NASH – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADER
Cert.IV Assessment & Workplace Training; M.Arts (Theology)
Religious Education Leader, Learning Advisor, VCE RE, RE

Steve joined us at the beginning of 2012, for the previous 13 years Steve held the position of Religious Education Leader at Sale Catholic College and before that taught at De La Salle College and Salesian College in Sunbury. The parents and friends meeting will be a good opportunity for Steve to introduce himself to our community and talk a little about his role and the Catholic Youth Ministry Program which is in its fourth year of operation at St Peter’s College.

Human Powered Vehicle 2014
St Peter’s College staff and students are currently working towards the opportunity of forming an interest group amongst staff, students and parents to build, maintain and race a St Peter’s College Human Powered Vehicle.
This group will be based at both the East Campus and West Campus. The group will also need to undertake fundraising activity to ensure that the project is viable.
Any Parent who is interested in hearing more about this project and/or participating in this project with the students are invited to attend the SPC Parents and Friends meeting on Tuesday 11th June, in the Staff Room at the West Campus at 7.15 for 7.30 start.

RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFITS CARD
A Reminder that 1% of your spend will be donated to St Peter’s College P&F Association. All new parents to the College will be sent the card for them to activate in the next week. Thank you for your support of this program.
Local Locations List:
Berwick, 2 Richardson Grove
Dandenong 141-145 Lonsdale St.
Mt Eliza, 89 Mt Eliza Way
Somerville, 2 Eramosa Rd. East
Cranbourne, 47 High St.
Frankston, 207-211 Beach St.
Narre Warren, 14 Webb St.
Towerhill, Golf Links & Hastings Rd
Carrum Downs, 1095 Frankston/Dandenong Rd.
Hastings, High & Salmon St.
Seaford, 280 Seaford Rd.
For full address locations visit www.ritchies.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2013/2014
Reminder that any outstanding payments for Entertainment Books not returned are due NOW.

ST PETER’S SCULPTURE & GARDEN FUNDRAISING PROJECT
We are again in 2013 giving families and individuals the chance to have their name as a permanent part of the landscaping of our Sculpture Garden at the West Campus. To Order please visit the College website in the Our College/Parents & Friends section.

ST PETER’S COLLEGE WEBSITE
Visit our College website www.stpeters.vic.edu.au for all up to date information on the College structure and activities.
Recent updates include Fundraising Result for Term 1, Year 11 Retreat, Year 8 Medieval Day, Activities and photographs, Girls in Education Conference for our students and teachers.
You will also find in ‘News and Events’ numerous current and past stories and pictures of the ‘Day to Day’ College life of our students.
ST AGATHA’S NEWS

BUSINESS MANAGER/PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: ST AGATHA’S PARISH CRANBOURNE: Applications are invited for the above position.

There is a position for a Business Manager/Pastoral Associate, for 30 hours per week at St Agatha’s Parish Cranbourne. The successful candidate will have appropriate qualifications in accountancy and business management, and as a Pastoral Associate. Demonstrated experience in both fields will be required. Applications to be made to: Fr Denis O’Bryan PP, PO Box 95, Cranbourne Vic, 3977. Applications close on Tuesday 11th June, 2013.

MONTHLY ALL NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL will take place this Friday 7th June. It will begin with Divine Office at 7pm, Mass at 7.30pm followed by a spiritual teaching given by Fr Denis O’Bryan and All night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Vigil will conclude on Saturday morning with Morning Prayer of the Church at 9am, followed by Mass at 9.30am. The all night Prayer Vigil is held on the first Friday of each month. All welcome!

VOICE FOR LIFE – FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE FOR DOCTORS: We are campaigning to Reform Section 8 – to change the Abortion Reform Act 2008 to restore the right of conscience objection to all health professionals: doctors, nurses and pharmacists. This would be a step towards winding back our state’s abortion laws and defending defenseless unborn babies. You can help by signing the open letter to Premier Napthine and sending the signed letter back to FamilyVoice at GPO Box 9894, Melbourne Vic 3001 by 20th June 2013. Please collect a copy of the letter from the foyer.

INVIGORATE (Age 12-17) Youth Group: Meet 2nd & 4th Fridays at 7.30pm in the Hall at St Agatha’s. Enquiries Yani Barroso ph. 0423 329 454

Mr Greg Nelson
ST AGATHA’S REPRESENTATIVE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
The Feast of Corpus Christi or The Body and Blood of Christ has just passed last Sunday. In the Catholic World this used to be a major event with special masses and Eucharistic Processions, now it is pretty much a normal Sunday. For many Catholics it passes unnoticed.

What things do we value as Catholics? When we say we want our children to have “Catholic Values” do we mean a devotion to the Eucharist? Or to the Mass?, what do we mean?

It is interesting to reflect on this as we see our children growing up in a world that is rapidly changing in its approach to how societies relate to each other by changing what were “Moral Boundaries”. A child’s family, known as their “Family of Origin”, has a huge bearing on what values they pick up and how they relate generally. Informed discussion in the home on the societal and moral issues of the day can be of great benefit to young people as they grow and take their place in the world.

When we express our opinions on the “refugee crisis, boat arrivals, same sex marriage or euthanasia, what we say illustrates our values. As parents we have the task and privilege of helping to form our children into the adult person they will become. As a College which is a faith community, St Peter’s has the task and privilege of assisting parents who want their children to grow with Catholic Values.

Later this month the College will celebrate the annual St Peter’s Day Mass. St Peter, along with patron saints of our houses often features in prayer and reflection. The focus of these reflections is often the humanity, the ordinariness of the lives of the saints. If we are to keep our Catholic values alive and indeed hand them on, we need to strengthen them by drawing on the heritage of the saints who themselves drew on the grace and strength of the sacraments.

It would I am sure be very beneficial to have the discussion with our secondary aged students as to what are “Catholic Values” and how they sit with “Family Values”

God Bless and good luck!

A Prayer for Ordinary Days
Faithful God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus. Through the power Of your Spirit, you come to us and abide with us. We stand in awe of Your boundless love. May we daily come to know Jesus more fully, love Him more deeply and follow him more closely. This we ask of you, Holy Trinity, Undivided Unity. Amen

Deacon Tony Aspinall
COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

CATHOLIC IDENTITY PROJECT SURVEY
Reminder to all parents that you are able to visit the website this week and next week to complete the survey. Please do not hesitate to contact the College if you require any assistance or further information about this important initiative.
Dear Member of Parliament

I am writing to you for information on how your party’s proposed changes to education funding will affect my child’s school.

Despite the fact that Catholic schools currently receive around 20 per cent less funding than a government school in Victoria we have a great sense of community and sound education outcomes. I would be very concerned if my principal was forced to run our school according to rules set by Canberra rather than respond directly to the needs of our community.

While I welcome the Australian Government’s commitment to fairer funding for students with disability and additional learning needs, I do have three questions about the funding proposals being advertised by the Australian Government:

1. How will school fees be affected?
2. How much of the new funding will be allocated to future increases in teacher and staff salaries?
3. What red tape will the new funding arrangements impose on schools and school systems? Has this been costed by the Australian Government, and what will it cost?

On top of the issue of funding, it is also very important to me that my choice of a distinctively Catholic education continues to be supported by the Australian Government.

I would be very concerned if the government’s plans centralised control of schools in Canberra and restricted the ability of my school principal to build our unique Catholic learning community.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Parent