Dear Parents & Friends of St. Mary's,

The Opening Mass last Friday morning was a wonderful occasion for staff, students and their families. Many thanks to Monsignor Toms who led us in prayer and helped make it such a special occasion for every member of the College community.

The procession was led by all our Senior Leaders. The College Captains proudly carried the College banner in the company of the College Vice Captains, Community Leaders and Wellbeing Leaders who in turn were flanked by our Sports Leaders who carried the Padua and McAuley banners. The procession sent a strong message about how much we value our heritage and tradition and set the tone for a very meaningful liturgy. Our theme for the year Time2Connect featured strongly throughout the mass reminding us all of our shared goal for 2015.

At the close of the mass there were some important announcements and awards. Mr Chris Head awarded the annual James Head Memorial donation to the SRC and Miss Lyndal O'Sullivan represented her family in awarding the Bernard O'Sullivan Scholarships (previously known as the Euroka Scholarship) to two secondary students Courtney Aldous and Keegan Grant. Congratulations to both students.

Finally our thanks are extended to all Student Leaders, Mrs Rochelle Gough, Mrs Kerry Hogan, Mrs Maryann Leonard, Mr Andrew Allen and Mrs Catherine Evans for their amazing talents and leadership. A very, very special thank you to all members of our wonderful College Choir who sang beautifully, as always!

~ Bring on 2015! ~

Playground Matters

Last week I outlined some important safety issues and have included them again in this week’s Marian to be sure that everyone is aware of the safety issues.

Safety in and around the junior and middle primary playgrounds is essential. For the safety of all children there are certain rules that I ask all students, parents and carers to observe:

1. Due to the design of the equipment, only the JP students are to play on the equipment near the corner of High St and Crawford St. The MP primary play equipment is the one closer to the centre of the P-4 playground.
2. Students may only play on the play equipment when the bell has rung and the teacher has commenced yard duty. Students are reminded, “Listen for the bell and look for the teacher.”

3. Students must use the play equipment appropriately. This means not climbing on top of the equipment.

4. Pre-school age children and toddlers must not play on any equipment at any time.

5. The play equipment is not to be used after school bell rings at 3.15pm.

Yesterday the College community attended Ash Wednesday Mass.

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent which extends for forty days.

During Lent we are called to confront ourselves honestly – to remind ourselves as humans we are fragile and that we are not the source of our own salvation. To receive the blessing and liberation that God constantly offers us, we need to accept our human condition with the humility and trust of Jesus in the desert. Thus Lent’s liturgical colour, purple, symbolises awareness of sin and readiness of conversion.

During Lent, we highlight the work of Caritas, the fundraising arm of the Catholic Church. We each have a Project Compassion Box in our classrooms. These boxes are placed on the prayer tables and the students are encouraged to contribute to Project Compassion over the next 6 weeks. The colour of the prayer cloth for Lent is purple.

Mr Peter Kelly

St. Mary’s College
Twilight Family Night

Wednesday 25th February at 6.00pm

BYO Picnic/BBQ Tea
(Barbecue’s & Chairs Provided)

Come One, Come All
The Year 7 to 10 Learning Overviews for the year were distributed at Parent/Teacher Meetings. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy please email me and I will send one to you. This document is to keep you informed and in conversation with your child about the learning topics and work expectations as the year progresses. You will note that it includes specific reference to other dates and activities. Just check with the Marian in case dates for events need to be changed.

The Curriculum Team is involved in reviewing the reporting process. There won’t be major changes this year, however we will be surveying parents for input at a later date. With the introduction of the Australian Curriculum taking place over these next 2 years and the use of technology across our lives, we are reviewing the process of reporting student achievement to parents. During this year we will be using a CEO discussion paper (prepared by the Catholic Education Office) to look at and review how and when parents receive feedback regarding their child’s learning progression.

Introducing the Class Captains as leaders of learning in their classrooms:

SP-G: Amity Hare
SP-K: Annalise Rimes
SP-M: Cooper Bell
7-M: Lachlan Russell
7-W: Ethan Quigg
8-F: Ebony Marshall
8-H: Jacob Doyle
9-A: Ha-Teya Gripske
9-D: James Reid
10-H: Billy Bowe
10-Q: Dylan Mendoza

The first task of the Class Captains as members of the student forum was to deliver the Learning Overview Posters to their classrooms and to lead a discussion about a positive learning focus. They will be introducing the Habits of Mind work by Arthur Costa to their classes. These are seen as tools for students to use in deepening their learning strategies.

(Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick, Habits of Mind: A Developmental Series, Copyright © 2000)

The Habits of Mind are an identified set of 16 problem solving, life related skills, necessary to effectively operate in society and promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship. The understanding and application of these 16 Habits of Mind serve to provide the individual with skills to work through real life situations that equip that person to respond using awareness (cues), thought, and intentional strategy in order to gain a positive outcome.

On the horizon

- ... looking ahead,
  - Yr. 8 Camp – Norval Lodge Grampians: 11th-13th March
  - Catholic Education Week: 16th-20th March
Finally a huge thank you to all staff and students for a great start to the term!

There are many camps, excursions (Indonesian Market trip); Sporting events (AFL clinic, Swimming, Athletics, Round Robin), scheduled at this time. They are an important part of learning; about participation and teamwork as much as they are part of skill development and acknowledging personal achievement.

Mrs Christine Buhler  ~  Email: christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

...from the Deputy Principal

Education in Faith & School Community

Yesterday we began the season of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday Mass as a school and parish community. The Mass was a prayerful reminder that we now enter into 40 days of reflection - and as a Catholic school community, we are called to act for others, pray and give to those who most need our help. The students and whole College community will have a particular focus on Caritas’ Project Compassion during Lent.

So that we all know a little bit about Caritas:
- Lorenz Worthmann began Caritas in 1897, Germany.
- It was founded in Australia in 1964 as the Catholic Overseas Relief Committee.
- In 1996, the name changed to Caritas, which means love and compassion in Latin.
- The initial focus was to respond to disasters with funding. The emphasis is now on long-term development and self-sustainability in vulnerable communities.
- Caritas Australia helps the poorest of the poor in over 35 countries around the world and is part of an international network comprising over 200 countries and territories.

Project Compassion 2015 focuses on Food for Life. It throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world’s poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life.

The College will mark each Friday of Lent with a prayer or an opportunity to contribute to Caritas. The Year 9 class captains and our SRC leaders began our fundraising effort on Pancake Tuesday. They sold pancakes (made by Year 9 students) at recess and the school raised $216 for Caritas – a great effort!!

This Friday, we invite all families to join us for “Prayer in the Quad” at 8.50am. This prayer will be the first of our prayer times during Lent as a whole College community and we would love families to join us for this simple 10 minute prayer.
The Opening College Mass for 2015 was a wonderful occasion. The church was packed to overflowing! It was a great opportunity to share the opening of the College Year with families and friends. Our Year 10 College leaders were presented to Monsignor Toms and pledged their service and commitment to the College. The staff also made a pledge of service for 2015, linking the pledge with our theme for the year “Time2Connect. The rest of the students and community made a similar pledge so that all members of our College community are united in working together in 2015.

Families are invited to BYO picnic tea and meet outside the creative arts wing from 6.00pm. At 7.00pm, the doors of the Art Room are opened up for a P-6 Disco while the secondary students head to the M/P Hall for their first social of the year. The Primary disco finishes at 8.00pm while the social concludes at 9.30pm. We look forward to seeing as many families as possible next Wednesday night.

We invite all families to our Family Picnic/BBQ Social and Disco next Wednesday 25th February. This is a great night to meet new families, renew friendships and celebrate being a St Mary’s College community.

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Two Future Stars!! Zac (JP-L) and Jabe (JP-C) Brown are future BMX stars!! The boys regularly compete in BMX races across Victorian and South Australia. They have had great success and today are pictured as Victorian “Sprocket Champions” in their respective age groups. Congratulations boys on a fantastic achievement!!

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Year 7 Reflection Day
Next Tuesday 23rd February, the Year 7 students will gather as a whole group to reflect on the start to the school year and look forward to the year ahead. The Reflection Day is part of their Faith in Education program and will be facilitated by their homeroom teachers. The students have received a letter detailing the events of the day. The students will be using the MPH as the venue for the Reflection Day and we anticipate it will be a great opportunity for staff and students to further strengthen relationships and faith development.

Mrs Catherine Evans
What a great start we have had to 2015. School life for our students can be frenetic and we all need to ensure that they are getting adequate rest and downtime. Ensuring students are getting the required amount of sleep and rest plays an important role in their educational development.

Cybersafety For Parents
As we all know technology plays a significant role in our lives and the lives of our children. St Mary’s is fortunate to have such wide access to a range of technology and all these are fantastic tools to aid your child’s learning, however they need to be treated with respect at all times. The following link is to a website provided by the Australian Government on Cybersafety (ACMA) – Information for parents:


Topic include:
- Parenting online
- Cyberbullying and unwanted contact
- Protecting personal information
- Sexting and inappropriate content
- e-Commerce and e-Security

Uniform
It has been such a pleasure to see so many students attending school in the correct uniform. What is pleasing is that most students are arriving at school with their blue broad brimmed hat. Recently staff have viewed our Sun Smart Policy and it reinforces the important message of protecting ourselves from the sun.

Student Expectations
At St Mary’s College we have student expectations that link directly to our College tag: Act Justly, Show Respect and Do our Best. These expectations are used in all our conversations with our students and help provide consistency in what is expected of our students when at school.

- To wear our College uniform with pride;
- Be punctual and prepared for learning;
- Care for our environment and resources;
- Be respectful of each other in our community with both voice and actions;
- Always interact in a safe and inclusive manner;
- Challenge yourself to achieve your best;
- Support our Catholic Ethos which is at the heart of everything we do.

‘Wellbeing Words of Wisdom’ ...
Using manners helps me keep my friends.

All students are required to be in their complete Summer Uniform. Students who have sport on this day will need to bring their sports uniform to change into.

Order envelopes and payment must accompany your child/ren on Photo Day.

Family envelopes are available for collection From the College Office.

College Photos:
Tuesday 10th March

Photo envelopes will be distributed on MON. 23rd February.
Families with students in Year 8-10 are reminded that the following payments are due by 1st March.

- Laptop Instalment (Year 8-10)
- VET/VCE balance (Year 10 only)

Final payments by the College to various institutions for the VET/VCE courses of students in Year 10 are now being made and it is therefore important that families meet their commitment by this deadline.

Our preferred method of payment is by:

◆ Direct Deposit to: St Mary’s College
BSB: 083 890
Account: 629 211 120

Please quote the Fee Account Number on your statement and your surname and VCE (or VET) or LTOP as reference.

◆ Payments can also be made in person.

Please contact me at the College if you wish to discuss the payment of fees and levies. Thank you.

Mrs Meryl Connell

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From The...

Library Resource Centre

The Library is always a busy place! And this year has been no exception.

Lunchtime visitors are enjoying games such as chess, checkers, snakes and ladders to name a few. The Book Club is once again up and READING each day.

For those who are new to the College, the Library is open at lunchtime till 1.15pm, allowing 10 minutes for students to pack up, get to the toilet or have a drink before lining up for the afternoon sessions.

The Library has a serious role in managing resources and materials that these days are not cheap! So if you could all have a really thorough search at home for any books that belong to the College Library or classrooms we would appreciate their return for others to use this year.

P-4 students Library learning this term is based on Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton’s book The 13 Storey Tree House. Andy and Terry live in an amazing 13-storey treehouse. It has a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a tank full of man-eating sharks, vines you can swing on, a games room, a secret underground laboratory, a lemonade fountain, a vegetable vaporiser and a marshmallow machine that follows them around and shoots marshmallows into their mouths whenever they are hungry!

Now it’s your turn:
If you could have a treehouse of your own what would you like to have in it?
Soon you can come and see the display in the Library of the treehouses created by each middle primary class.

Mrs Christine Buhler & Mrs Linda Heveren: Library Resource Centre
A very exciting year ahead for Languages study at St Mary’s College. The year began even before school started when I was asked to lead the Asia Education Foundation’s Study Tour to Indonesia. It was a great trip and rejuvenated my passion for teaching Indonesian. There were many highlights such as riding a becak in Yogyakarta, watching the sunrise over Borobudur monument and a very warm welcome from the students at Maros Primary School, Sulawesi.

Other big news that we will be getting an Indonesian partner school through the Bridge Project which is run by the Asia Education Foundation. This will provide us with direct links to a junior secondary school in Indonesia. More about this later.

Back in the classroom we have already commenced our units for the Certificate II in Applied Language for a small group of students in Year 9 and 10. These students will have the opportunity to travel to Indonesia later this year. Needless to say this has generated much excitement in the classroom. More about this later too.

The Year 8’s are also excited about today’s trip to an Indonesian restaurant and the Victoria Market. This is a wonderful day and an authentic experience of Indonesian food. Later in the term they will be role-playing a scene: At the restaurant.

In Year 7 we have started looking at the diverse cultures of Indonesia and exploring some of the 17,500 islands that make up the archipelago. We will move on to the language for greetings and introducing ourselves in the next few weeks.

Senior Primary classes will be looking at the vocabulary for animals both domestic and wild. We will look at some of the unique species of Indonesia and Australia.

The Middle Primary classes have begun their lessons on greetings and introductions using sock puppets. This is always a fun activity and encourages the use of the language.

Finally the Junior Primary classes have embarked on an “armchair” tour of Nepal. Mrs Cullum was lucky enough to visit Nepal last year so will bring her first-hand knowledge to the lessons.

Mrs Angela Molinaro and Mrs Jacqueline Cullum
Last Friday we held our Annual College Swimming Carnival. What a way to start off the school year with a SPLASH! Scorching hot temperatures on the day were a great way to encourage everyone to compete in events (even some teachers!). All Junior and Secondary students swam very well and participated in an enormous number of events, keeping the final result for the day very tight.

Students were encouraged this year to get into the spirit of the day and represent their teams by dressing up in their house colours - and they delivered! It was a wonderful sight created a great atmosphere for the day.

Well done to both teams and congratulations Padua as they took home another win but only after an outstanding performance from McAuley.

A special thanks to House Captains of both Padua and McAuley who were great leaders on the day. Thanks also to our wonderful teachers for their help, in particular Ms. D for organising yet another fun and successful Carnival. Stay tuned for a report on the College Athletics in a few weeks.

_McAuley House Captains: Jordan Irwin and Courtney Aldous_

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**PRIVATE SINGING LESSONS**

Singing teacher, Siobhan McSweeney, will be visiting St. Mary’s College this year on a weekly basis to teach singing to interested students. Numbers will be limited.

If you are interested, please contact Siobhan on 0438 886 036