FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Mr Peter Riordan

Dear Parents,

In my new role as Principal of Simonds Catholic College I would extend a very warm welcome to all families for 2013. During the few weeks that I have been here, I have been really impressed by the welcoming and respectful relationships I have observed between staff, students and parents. I congratulate Mrs Helen Koutoulagenis – Deputy Principal – St Mary’s Campus and Mr Robert Anastasio – Deputy Principal St Brigid’s Campus on their appointments and wish them every success as they take on these significant roles and responsibilities for 2013 and beyond.

In 2013, all students in Years 7, 8 & 9 have been issued with an iPad which has created much excitement amongst the students. Importantly, all staff have done extensive Professional Development to assist in this shift in teaching pedagogy. Last Thursday the staff of Simonds Catholic College and the Academy of Immaculate Mary attended full day workshops by Andrew Douch – a leading presenter in the use of ICT in schools. The introduction of iPads is seen as a critical development in the education of our students in our rapidly changing technological world.

I extend my appreciation to all of those families who have been able to attend the respective Year Level Information Evenings over the past week as staff have outlined their expectations for the coming year.

On Monday 4th February the whole school assembled for the Simonds Catholic Opening School Assembly in St Brigid’s Hall which was a significant celebration for the College. Students from 2012 who received an ATAR score of over 90 (9 in total) were invited back to the College to receive a small plaque of recognition, as were those students who achieved the highest score in their respective Unit 3/4 subject. Congratulations to Pascal James Leung Wan Chin who was dux of the college with an ATAR score of 98.6.

The College Leaders, Middle School Captain, House Captain, College Vice-Captain and College Captain were also presented to the school community. The College Captain, Patrick More-Shields addressed the College community for the first time and spoke particularly well as he challenged students to work together to get the most out of 2013.

I would also take this opportunity to welcome staff new to Simonds Catholic College:

- Lucas McLennan (English/Humanities) and Fabrizio Ghio (R.E./Humanities)

and returning teachers:

- Laura Fisher, Ms Van Hoang, Mr Tom Smith & Ms Junko Osanai

and Term 1 Replacement:

- Mr Edward Nikolaidis – Photography/ICT/VCOM.

As the year begins, I look forward to an exciting and rewarding road ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Riordan
PRINCIPAL
Congratulations to the Class of 2012

The Simonds Year 12 Class of 2012 had an extremely successful year, achieving some great results; both individually and as a group and I wish to congratulate the boys on their commitment, determination and hard work in producing these results. Every eligible student successfully completed their VCE certificate and 95% received an ATAR. This is an extremely high proportion of students and we are proud to continue our commitment to providing opportunities for all of our students to achieve their potential.

The ‘Dux’ of the college was Pascal Leung Wan Chin with an ATAR of 98.60. Pascal is to be congratulated on a fantastic result. He was offered a place in the Science Scholars Program at Monash University. We wish him the very best in his future studies.

There were some outstanding individual efforts including a perfect score of 50 by Luke Higgins in Biology. He was one of only 26 students out of over 12000 students completing Biology that were able to achieve this feat. Congratulations to Luke and his teacher Mrs Salvina Noonan.

9 of our students (13%) achieved an ATAR of over 90 placing them in the top 10% of the state, 21(30%) were in the top 20% of the state, and 31(45%) were in the top 30% of results. The fact that OVER three quarters of our students gained an ATAR greater than 50 is a cause for celebration! We are extremely proud of what they achieved as a group and individually.

Our first round offers for tertiary places were extremely impressive with 97.1% of applicants receiving a first round offer. As can be seen from the graph below, the majority of students received university placements and our students will be attending a number of institutions across the state. We wish them well as they enter the next stage of their lives and I am certain that their education at Simonds will provide the appropriate foundations for their future.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the staff for their hard work, dedication and perseverance whilst working with the boys throughout their secondary education. As always there were stressful moments and challenges but the passion to provide the best possible education to our boys continues to inspire me. Our second year further added to the foundations laid for Simonds Catholic College in 2011 and we are committed to improving and prospering as a Year 7 -12 College, providing opportunities for young men to pursue excellence and success.

Mr R Anastasio – Deputy Principal

2012 Students - ATAR Score - 90 and above

DUX - Pascal James Leung Wan Chin
ATAR Score 98.6

Gianni Cozzi
ATAR Score 97.55

Kyrollos Hanna
ATAR Score 95.75

Luke Higgins
ATAR Score 95.75

Anthony Ngo
ATAR Score 93.00

Philip Huynh

Joe Vu

Luke Reynolds

Ayden Thang
ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE SIMONDS FAMILY MASS
on THURSDAY, 21 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm
at ST MARY’s CHURCH, WEST MELBOURNE

At the conclusion of Mass, supper will be provided in the General Purpose Room.
Families are asked to bring a plate of food to contribute to the supper.

School Organisation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Mr Peter Riordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal Head of St Mary’s 7-10 Campus</td>
<td>Mrs Helen Koutoulogenis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal Head of St Brigid’s VCE Campus</td>
<td>Mr Robert Anastasio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12 Coordinator</td>
<td>Mr Mal Roland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 Coordinator</td>
<td>Mrs Alevizos</td>
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<td>Years 7 &amp; 8 Coordinator</td>
<td>Mr Eder Ramos</td>
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<td>Years 9 &amp; 10 Coordinator</td>
<td>Mr Ken Turner</td>
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Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

• Be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
• Be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card. The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (29 January, 2013 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (5 July, 2013). The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **28 February 2013** for the first instalment, and by **2 August 2013** for the second instalment. The EMA provides an annual amount of $250 or $300 (year 7) for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. Students turning 16 years in 2013 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

The school asks that you sign over the EMA entitlement to Simonds Catholic College and in return we will reduce your annual fees by $600 (Year 11 pro rata)

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2013 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after **28 February 2013** and prior to or on 2 August 2013, must reapply at the new school for the **second instalment**. Application forms are available from the school office. A copy of your Health care Card will be required.

SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL BARBEQUE
The VCAL class of 2013 will be holding a barbeque on the 18th of February at the swimming carnival. Please come down and help us raise money for charity and also help out with the funds for VCAL. We hope to see you down there on that day.

**Mathematics News**

As we embark on the new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all students in years’ 7-10 to challenge themselves and take part in the various mathematics activities that are being offered. Why not take up the challenge that our principal set during our recent assembly and get involved in an activity that you haven’t tried before? This year students have the opportunity to participate in two very different mathematics competitions; the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians and the Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards.

The **Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians** is designed to extend talented mathematics students. The task involves solving six mathematical problems over a three week period in term two. Students who participate will receive certificates and the best students have an opportunity to receive prizes. To keep costs to a minimum the entry fee has been reduced to $10.00 per student. This will need to be paid no later than **Monday, 4 March**.

The **Australian Mathematics Competition** is designed to create and encourage interest in the study of mathematics. This competition will be held on Thursday, 1 August. All students receive personalised reports identifying their potential strengths and weaknesses in various topic areas in mathematics. Students who perform well will also receive certificates and the best students have the opportunity to receive prizes. The entry fee for the competition is $5.50 per student of which students will be asked to contribute $5.00. This will need to be paid no later than **Monday, 4 March**.

**Ms D Sinis - Head of Mathematics**

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.


**February 12**  Yr 10 Parent Information Evening  @ 7.00 pm
CALENDAR - Term 1 2013

21  FAMILY MASS @ St Mary's Star of the Sea West Melbourne @ 7.30 pm
22  ACC Swimming Carnival at MSAC
26  VCE School Photos - St Brigid’s Campus

March 1  Yr 7-10 School Photos - St Mary’s Campus
       1-2  SRC Leadership Camp
       12-15 Yr 7 Camp
       18  Yr 7-9 & 10 Vaccination
       22  Athletics Carnival @ Coburg Yr 7-12
       28  Interim Reports posted – TERM 1 ENDS

April 16  STUDENTS COMMENCE TERM 2 - with Week 1 timetable