FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Mr Peter Riordan

Dear Parents,

I am sure that you are all aware that schools are exceptionally busy places with an abundance of co-curricular activities occurring on a weekly basis. Simonds Catholic College is no exception to this. It has been fascinating to observe Years 8, 9 and 10 students who have participated in the Mr Chef Competition held this week. Students from the respective Year Levels competed in House Groups to prepare and cook some extraordinary dishes as they were encouraged and eagerly supported by their fellow students.

In 2013, Simonds Catholic College has deliberately further expanded its involvement in the Associated Catholic College competition. It has been terrific, to observe so many students prepared to try out for the respective teams, and have gone on to represent the College with great pride and distinction.

In Term 2, we fielded a 1st XI Soccer Team, a Yr. 7 & 8 Football and Soccer Team and Yr. 9 & 10 Football and Soccer Team as well. In Term 3, we will be fielding Basketball and Table Tennis Teams at the Senior Level, and at Yr. 7 & 8 and Yr. 9 & 10.

One of the challenges I gave students at our first Assembly back in February was to represent the College in an area that they hadn’t done before – it is very encouraging to observe so many students taking up this challenge as we all continue to shape the culture of Simonds Catholic College.

Next week at Simonds Catholic College there is a very strong focus on the academic side of school life as all students from Years 7-12 will be sitting their Semester One exams. Hopefully the exams will provide students with an opportunity to evaluate their progress in various subject areas, and to then set some realistic goals for Semester Two. I would encourage all students to prepare well for their exams so that they can build on the hard work they have done throughout the first semester. All students studying a UNIT 3/4 subject will be undertaking the General Achievement Test on Wednesday 12 June - good luck to all students during Exam Week.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Riordan
PRINCIPAL
Students at Simonds College celebrated National Reconciliation Week recently. National Reconciliation Week began on Mon 27th May, which was the 46th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum that enabled Aboriginal Peoples to be counted in the census and enabled the Commonwealth to make laws regarding the first Australians. The week concluded on Mon 3rd June which was the 21st anniversary of the 1992 Mabo High Court ruling, overturning the legal fiction of Terra Nullius.

The big theme for National Reconciliation Week in 2013 is 'Recognition'. Currently our Constitution still does not recognise or mention Australia’s first peoples. Our Constitution also allows State governments to make laws that discriminate on the basis of race. Aboriginal people (and many other Australians) would like to see this removed from the Constitution and have recognition of being First Peoples written into the Constitution.

Mr D Barnett - Head of Science

Most Reverend Denis J Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne, celebrated the Annual Mass for Altar Servers at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, Friday May 17, 2013. During the Eucharistic Celebration Altar Servers from Simonds Catholic College and parishes of the Archdiocese of Melbourne were admitted into the Guild of Saint Stephen. Each Altar Server received their medal of Saint Stephen from the Archbishop. Saint Stephen was a deacon of the Church who assisted the apostles through his service to God's people. The Guild of Saint Stephen continues to foster a deep awareness and understanding of liturgy today.

Congratulations to Jonathon Bautista (Yr 10), Gabriel Gomez (Yr 10) and Thiep Bol (Yr 8) for being admitted into the Guild of Saint Stephen 2013. Also, thank you to Mr Fabrizio Ghio for preparing and training the Altar Servers to minister at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.

Ms M Krall - Religious Education Coordinator

On Friday 17 & Saturday 18 May our school took part in a design competition So You Think You Can Design. This live event was created from the You Tube competition that was first created at Simonds in 2011. The challenges included similar tasks: creating mood boards, drawing, Sketchup and model making and the students designed a range a products over the 2 days. 5 schools, 10 students took part over the 2 day event, the other schools were Aitken College, Mazenod College, CBC St Kilda and Ballarat Grammar.

Simonds was represented by Year 11 students Knigel Patag and Andrew Le. There were excellent representatives in every way. Simonds took an early lead on the Friday and were definitely the team to beat as they performed consistently well over both days.

Aitken narrowly won on the last event with a fantastic prototype – but only by few points. Simonds took second place.

Please congratulate Knigel and Andrew for their outstanding efforts! You can see pictures from event on facebook. www.facebook.com/DattaVic

Mr P Murphy - Head of Technology
The easy way to get a tax file number

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with the cooperation of schools, offers students aged 13 years or over the opportunity to apply for a tax file number (TFN) through school. This is a voluntary program and makes it easier for students to obtain a TFN.

Students need a TFN for employment, applying for Centrelink benefits, opening a bank account or deferring university fees.

Applying for a TFN through school is easier because students do not need to show identifying documentation to the ATO. The application form is available from the school and students can complete it at home. The form requires information such as the student’s name, address and date of birth. Students also need to provide the following details:

- Students born in Australia will need to provide their
  - birth certificate number, state of issue and year of registration, or
  - Australian passport number and date of issue.

- Students born overseas will need to provide their
  - overseas passport number and country of issue, or
  - Australian citizenship certificate number and date of issue, or
  - Australian passport number and date of issue

It is important that the application form is fully completed and signed by the student. All information provided on the form will remain confidential. Forms may be collected from Mrs Koutoulogenis at the St Mary’s campus and from Mr Anastasio at the St Brigid’s campus.

The school will certify the application form by cross-checking against the information held on their records. Students are not required to show identifying documentation to the school or the ATO.

Students will receive their TFN via a notification letter sent to their postal address, within 28 days of the application being received by the ATO.

Mrs H Koutoulogenis
Deputy Principal – Learning & Teaching | Head of St Mary’s campus.

Earn & Learn Program

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is back! This community program enables schools throughout Australia to earn educational resources simply through the school community shopping at Woolworths.

Simonds Catholic College is running the promotion at school. Parents and students that shop at Woolies can ask for stickers. For each $10 you spend you receive a sticker. There is a sticker sheet where you place your sticker on to which is available from reception at each respective campus or at your local Woolies store. The promo finishes 9 June. The stickers help purchase items for the school. Once the sticker sheet is full they can be placed in a green box at each campus.

Ms M Smooker & Mr F Ghio – Organisers
Term 2 ACC Sport Update
With term 2 drawing to a close I would like to thank all students that were involved in ACC sport this term. It has been a very busy term with the school fielding 3 soccer squads, 2 football squads and 2 badminton squads.

Congratulations to both football teams on notching their first wins in the ACC competition. This is a fantastic achievement and a great step forward for sport at Simonds.

Thank you to our coaches, Mr Anastasio, Mr McConnon, Mr Smith, Mr Ramos, Mr DiFabrizio and Mr Sebbens for all the work they put in to getting the squads ready for competition.

We look forward to term 3 which will see Simonds hosting ACC sport on site for the first time. We are very excited and I wish the Basketball and Table Tennis teams all the best.

Term 3 Cross Country
We will be holding an Adidas School Cross Country as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on Friday 26th July at Princes Park.

The Adidas School cross country is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is most appreciated as we encourage all students to get involved.

All students will receive a Sponsorship Form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school. The funds raised will be used to purchase new table tennis tables so that we can host ACC sport as well as other sporting new sporting equipment.

We ask all parents to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in this event. Students who raise just $10 or more will receive a reward for effort.

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!

Mr C Veal - Director of Sport

Catholic School Funding
As the parent of a student attending a Catholic school, you are in a position to significantly influence the Australian Government’s proposed school funding 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 modeling showing the proposal’s financial impact on Catholic schools, or how the reforms could effect 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.

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.
Moira Kelly AO, has been recognised with many community, national and international awards for her humanitarian work.

Moira has worked alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta and she has assisted the world’s least fortunate people including those affected by war.

Not only is Harry O’Brien a Collingwood footballer, but he has been a youth ambassador for the Melbourne Burnet Institute which has programs to detect, prevent and treat diseases of global significance. Harry will talk about ‘resilience’ which is one of the pillars of growth associated with the N.I.C.K. Foundation.

Dr David Buttifant, Sports Science Director of the Collingwood Football Club and the founder of the N.I.C.K. Foundation will be there to MC the night.

When: 13 June
Where: St Fidelis Hall, 49 Clarendon St Coburg
Time: 7:00pm
Cost: $20 per adult

All students FREE - Light supper provided - LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE
All money raised will be donated to the above charities including silent auction items.
Enquiries: David Vandenberg - Mobile: 0408 552 954 Ph: 9386 8802

Language Perfect World Championships 2013

78 students from our school participated in the Language Perfect World Championships Competition from the 20th to the 30th of May. We are proud to announce that 7 students managed to answer more than 1000 questions (Bronze Award).

This is a worldwide competition that uses a last generation software to learn foreign languages in an interactive and fun way. The boys have greatly enjoyed the competition and that our school achieved an amazing score considering that we participated with only 78 students and we don’t use that software all year around.

One of Year 8 Japanese student Tommy Vu won Silver Award, he was one of 2796 silver award winners from the students all over the world. Well done, Tommy!!

Congratulations to all those students who took part in this competition.

School Achievements:
- 530th overall globally (out of 1054 schools)
- 370th overall in Australia (out of 705 schools)
- 75th overall in the 51-100 students category (out of 210 schools)
- 117th overall in VIC (out of 189 schools)
- 9th in VIC for the 51-100 students category (out of 25 schools)
- 40th in Australia for the 51-100 students category (out of 114 schools)
- 118th overall in Italian (out of 743 schools)
- 252nd overall in Japanese (out of 775 schools)
- 11th for Italian in the 51-100 students category (out of 128 schools)
- 26th for Japanese in the 51-100 students category (out of 127 schools)

Miss Y Yao - Japanese Teacher
Mr G DiFabrizio - Italian Teacher | Head of LOTE
On Friday the 24th of May, the Year 10 Japanese class accompanied by Mr. Di Fabrizio and myself went on an excursion to Monash University for a presentation on Japanese language and culture. This provided them with an opportunity to fully understand the importance of studying Japanese and continuing the language to the VCE level and beyond.

Many guest speakers discussed their experiences with the Japanese language and our students gained much knowledge about the direct and indirect benefits of learning another language.

Miss Y Yao - Japanese Teacher

Student’s evaluation -

Following our arrival to the front entrance of Monash University, we were astounded by the modern architecture of the buildings. The area was filled with students from other schools. It seemed like there would not be enough space in the Robert Blackwood Hall, where the presentation was to be held. Shortly after disembarking the bus, we were greeted by a member of the staff and were led through the campus and towards the Hall. We placed our bags right outside the entrance to the Blackwood Hall where we were then given tickets by Miss Yao for our seating and for winning prizes, which were given at many stages of the day.

Whilst everyone in the hall was eagerly settling into their seats, we were startled by the swift dimming of lights and the light pounding of drums. The synced drumming gradually escalated into loud strikes which were followed by enthusiastic shouts in Japanese tongue. The act seemed to capture the attention of everyone in the hall as eyes were glistening towards the musicians. After the stunning performance was concluded, we were then greeted by Nathan lane, the president of the Japanese Language Teachers’ Association of Victoria. He introduced himself and the Wadaiko Rindo Drummers as the first act of the day.

After talking a bit about Monash University’s opportunities for the Japanese language and culture, he then introduced Sonja Halloran who gave a demonstration of sword play. Her skillful and energetic display seemed to entertain everyone as the applause was powerful. Mr. lane retumed and suggested that everyone should stretch as we were all sitting for around 2 hours. The big screen played a video that exhibited some stretching routines that looked quite hilarious. We were encouraged to attempt these routines, and fun was had throughout the hall.

After the amusing stretching event, we were given time to have lunch and prepare for the movie to come. The movie was “Train Man” and was about an awkward 23 year old man, who intervenes when a drunk man attempts to harass a lady on the train and who he later becomes closer with. The movie was enjoyable as everyone in the hall was concentrated on it and was a great way to end the day. It is a shame that we may not be able to experience this again in the future. It was agreed by everyone in my class that this day was memorable and definitely gave a lot of insight into the Japanese language and culture.

Nelson Cheong - 10 White
TOPIC: HOW TO STAY in TOUCH on the ADOLESCENT ROLLER COASTER

Presenter: Bill Jennings
Ages: Secondary
Whether you are already living in the ‘teenage laboratory’ or you’re in the queue for the ride alongside your child on the adolescent rollercoaster, this seminar will provide:

- the opportunity to practice a skill that will help keep communication strong whether your child is an adolescent now, or will be one day
- the knowledge for each parent role: mother-son; father-son; mother-daughter and father-daughter
- young people’s words and insights
- key ingredients (from Bill’s research) to assist your child in a healthy transition to young adulthood
- practical material to readily begin the practice of strengthening communication with your child.

DATE | TIME | LOCATION
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Monday 3 June | 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm | Emmaus College, Vermont South (Melway Map 62 E5)

GIRLS RULES

Presenter: Theresa Sheedy
Ages: Primary and Secondary
For a long time there has been discussion that raising girls is different from raising boys. This seminar looks at girls’ relationships with each other and the adults in their world. How is power used within girl peer groups - who’s in and who’s not? What does bullying look like within girl groups? We discuss how to help your daughter manage social popularity and social isolation. Focusing on preventing depression, anxiety and eating disorders in young people, this seminar can introduce you to how you can support your daughter be herself in this ever-changing social context and examine what kind of parenting style works in developing a lasting relationship with your daughter.

DATE | TIME | LOCATION
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Wednesday 5 June | 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm | Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham (Map 21 K5)

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN and ADOLESCENTS

Presenter: Chris Daicos
Ages: Primary and Secondary
Young people in our schools today need the skills, knowledge and practice opportunities to build social relationships, to cope with difficulty and to work collaboratively. Resilient children are socially competent, can solve problems, have a sense of autonomy and independence, and a sense of purpose and future. As a consequence, these children have an increased capacity to learn. This seminar will:

- provide an overview of the recent research in the area of resilience
- examine the profile of the resilient child and the protective factors that enhance these qualities
- provide an opportunity to identify and associate current work/parenting with protective factors
- explore ways of increasing and maximising these protective factors for children and adolescents.

DATE | TIME | LOCATION
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Wednesday 12 June | 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm | Christ the King Primary School, Braybrook (Map 41 E1)
Would parents please note that Simonds Catholic College has been approved as a participant in the Centrepay scheme. This means that parents receiving Centrelink benefits will now be able to apply part of those benefits towards paying school fees on a fortnightly basis.

Centrepay deduction forms are available from Reception. Please note that the College’s Customer Reference Number (CRN) is **555 101 881K**. Would completed and signed forms please be returned to the St Mary’s Campus at 273 Victoria Street, West Melbourne, for forwarding to the Centrepay Office.

It is important to note that whilst Centrepay is a payment option for families currently facing financial hardship, the School’s expectation for other families is that fees are paid within 14 days of the billing date.

Mr A Watts - Finance Manager

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**Men Alive**

A weekend for dads and their teenage sons (13-17 years) 5-7 July 2013

Growing Good Men’ is a unique opportunity for dads and their teenage sons to embark on a quest of discovery.

A son’s relationship with his father can be a powerful guiding force as he wrestles with the questions of what kind of man he is becoming. The most important ingredient in this relationship is time.

Take time out together to get reconnected in an environment which fosters honesty, mutual respect and a hunger for more out of life.

Enquiries mail@menalive.org.au Michael Bohan 0439 172 465 michael.bohan@menalive.org.au
Robert Falzon 0412 7 45 734 Peter Shakhovskoy 0409 479 373 www.menalive.org.au

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**Family Care Sisters**

The family Care Sisters facility at Croydon, offers holistic care to all women (aged 20 - 70 yrs) who are in a need of a peaceful environment, ‘time out’, support or nurturing. Our residential program operates each week, Monday – Friday. A daily group session is held on topics such as ‘relaxation’, ‘well-being’, ‘self-awareness’, ‘boundaries’, etc. Suggested cost: $30 per day.

For further information or to book in: contact us on Ph. 9723 6797

Web: www.familycaresisters.com.au Email: resthome.familycare@pigpond.com